

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE, JESMOND.

England & Wales · Charity number 1132758

Details

Other names JESMOND, ST GEORGE'S PCC

Status Registered

Legal form Previously excepted

Registered 2009-11-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Parish Office
St. Georges Close
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE2 2TF

Phone 01912811659

Email office@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Website www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk

Activities

Objects: Promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church.

Activities: We offer facilities for local groups and organisations. We work with people of all ages and abilities. We offer worship and pastoral care.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£452,248	£272,968	-	-
2023-12-31	£283,143	£246,964	-	-
2022-12-31	£269,903	£239,773	-	-
2021-12-31	£266,941	£303,044	-	-
2020-12-31	£185,829	£179,287	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alison Mattinson		2024-04-28
Dr Elizabeth Mora Joan Wilson		2025-05-11
Dr LANA YAN JUN LIU PhD		2023-04-30
Dr Thomas Peter Klenka		2025-05-20
IZZY MCDONALD-BOOTH		2012-05-31
JOAN ELIZABETH GRENFELL		
James Parkin		2025-05-11
Kathleen Elizabeth Plumley MA		2017-04-23
Michael Norman De La Hunt		2017-04-23
Nigel Vincent Russell-Sewell		2023-04-30
Prof Janet Wilson		2022-05-31
Rev Deborah Loughran		2024-10-07
William Brent Swinburne		2024-04-28

Accounts

11th May 2025



Annual Reports and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond, for the year ending 31st December 2024



Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond
Registered Charity No. 1132758

Aim and Purpose

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Debbie Loughran (since October 2024), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Church Hall, Tower House, Close house, and the Green.

Objectives and Activities

St George's seeks to be an Inclusive Church and has set the following areas of focus for our energies:

- Open and welcoming church community
- Inclusive and traditional worship
- Questioning and nurturing faith
- Relevant and engaged in the wider world

PCC Members who served during 2024

Ex Officio

Incumbent: Reverend Debbie Loughran (from October 2024)

Curate: Reverend Oliver Dempsey (to April 2024)

Interim Minister: Reverend Canon Clare MacLaren (to March 2024)

Lay Reader and Anna Chaplain: Joan Grenfell

Churchwardens: Enid Pearson (2023-2025), Janet Wilson (2023-2026)

General Synod: Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth

Lay Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mike de la Hunt (2020-2026), Kay Plumley (2020-2026), Alex Walker (to February 2024)

Treasurer: Mike Ranson

Elected Members

Hilary Cullingford (2022-2025)

Donald Gaze (2023-2026)

Lana Liu (2023-2026)

Alison Mattinson (2024-2027)

Ian Ness (2022-2025)

Nigel Russell-Sewell (2023-2026)

Brent Swinburne (2024-2027)

Sue Vernon (to April 2024)

Margaret Vane (2022-2025)

Secretary: Nigel Russell-Sewell

Administrative Information

St George's Church is located on St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF.

Correspondence should be sent to the Vicar at St George's Vicarage, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF; or The Parish Office, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF.

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Electoral Roll Report

The revision of the Electoral Roll was completed on 14th April 2025. The roll contains 159 names; 80 are resident in the parish and 79 are non-resident.

In April 2024 the roll contained 206 names - there have been 17 additions and 64 deletions since then.

The secretaries of the Diocesan and Deanery Synod have been duly informed of the current roll numbers.

Margaret Baron, Electoral Roll Officer

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Vicar's Report

Jeremiah 29:11

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’

In January 2024 I was happily serving 6 parishes in Telford, Diocese of Lichfield as Vicar and more parishes as Area Dean. I was engaged in many Diocesan committees and serving as a Bishop's Advisor for Ministry. If you had told me then that 10 months later I would have moved 218 miles north and have been licenced to 2 parishes in Jesmond, Diocese of Newcastle I would have laughed. But here I was, licensed on 7th October 2025 to St George's and St Hilda's Jesmond.

It was an amazing call from God to move and an amazing service to arrive to, thank you for all the work that went into making it all possible.

Since then I have sought to get to know people, if we haven't already met please do drop me an email and let's arrange a coffee.

We have done so much, shared so much, laughed a lot and gathered together. We have planned and executed those plans, we have done things which were tried and tested and have tried new things too; trusting that God would meet us where we were.

And this will be the story of 2025 too. There will be successes and things which don't work out as we hoped or expected; but through it all we hold on to the Gospel, which doesn't promise us it will be easy, but does promise that it will be worth it.

A short Vicar's report this year, next will be longer as we explore together our call to love and serve the people of our parish.

May we know the guiding of the Holy Spirit as we step out in faith into the future trusting in God to lead us.

Rev Debbie Loughran

Parochial Church Council Report

A lively discussion on “getting out of fossil fuels in our church” was held January 2024 in preparation for the Eco Group presentation to the congregation held in February. PCC received the designs for the lectern steps, prepared by Ian Ness, and requested these be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval.

News was received in February that the first round of advertising the vacancy for Vicar had not been successful along with a revised timeline for advertising, shortlisting and interviews. Now that PCC no longer had to spend time on the vacancy, meetings reverted to one every two months. The PCC also received Alex Walker’s resignation as Deanery Synod Representative due to his new role in the Diocese of Durham, thanked him for his contributions to the PCC and wished him well.

March saw a special meeting of the PCC with the Estates Group, and the Hub Steering Group where we heard from the Jesmond Community Forum Treasurer on the importance of St George’s estate to the community. Our fundraising consultant, Paul Baird, introduced himself and presented an overview of fundraising strategy for the project. Progress to date was received along with an opportunity to review the architect’s plans.

The April meeting received the annual accounts in preparation for the Annual Meetings and received news from the Archdeacon that Ian Ness’s plan for the lectern steps had been approved.

Following the Annual Meetings, PCC welcomed Alison Mattinson and Brent Swinburne to their first meeting in May. Officials were appointed: Janet Wilson (Lay Chair), Nigel Russell-Sewell (Honorary Secretary), Mike Ranson (Honorary Treasurer). PCC approved amended Lone Worker Guidance, the Legacy Policy and the Conflict of Interest Policy.

PCC greeted the news that The Reverend Debbie Loughran had been appointed Vicar to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda with great delight at its July meeting. Thanks were given to the Representatives of St George’s who played an important role in the selection and interview process. PCC received a report on the Diocese of Newcastle Net Zero Action Plan. PCC also agreed the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Reformed Church to enable the organ project to commence.

The focus of the September meeting was the installation of the new Vicar. A new Safeguarding Code for Bell Ringing was received and formally adopted by the PCC. Repairs to the boiler had been made. Ian Ness designed and commissioned the new lectern steps, in memory of Miss Ann Biles. Thanks were given to Geoff White who retired as Bell Captain after many years’ service. John Markham was welcomed as the new Bell Captain. It was agreed that Smarties would be paused due to numbers attending, and would be reviewed when the new Vicar is in post.

The final meeting of the year, in November, heralded the first of the Vicar as Chair. PCC had been considering the signage on the Green regarding “no dogs” for some time. After

considerable discussion, it was agreed that signage be removed and reviewed annually each May. It was agreed that a Gift Audit be carried out in early 2025 to discern talents in the church community. Discussion of the Parish Share paid annually to the Diocese concluded with PCC agreeing to pay the full amount of £97,200 requested in 2025.

Every PCC meeting has 'standing items' on the agenda that must be considered at each meeting: Safeguarding; Finance; Building and Grounds Group; and St George's Community Hub. Minutes are published on the St George's website following approval and can be read at: <https://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/about/#the-pcc>.

Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell
PCC Secretary (Honorary)

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SEEKING

Inclusive Church Statement

"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**.

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement/>

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Bellringers' Report

The band of Bellringers has remained largely unchanged throughout the year thus enabling us to meet our ringing commitments. In addition to regular Sunday service ringing, we have rung for four weddings, the D-Day 80th Anniversary and the Jesmond Festival and the Vicar's licensing.

Geoff White, tower captain, stood down after 15 years of service but continues to support ringing each week. I was asked to take on the role and took over in September 2024. I have been ringing for nearly forty years and joined the band in the previous year when my personal situation allowed.

A number of our ringers help out at other local churches and in particular ring at St. James and Basil Fenham, on Sunday mornings after ringing at St George's. The bellringers

enjoyed a day out in the summer when they visited four churches in the Tyne valley and rang the bells. This was a first for some of the band. It was not all work as food was also involved.

Training plays an important role in developing the skills and knowledge of the band as a whole. Some additional practice sessions were organised towards the end of the year and that continues. Bells, as with any musical instrument, take several months to master and then followed by a lifetime of learning. I am pleased to say that we have recruited a new member to the band who was taught from scratch in the latter part of the year.

The condition of the bells and fittings remain largely in good order with little work being necessary throughout the year. It is important to check the bell fittings regularly, only a few bolts had to be tightened and a couple of Ash stays replaced. The bell ropes do have a limited life, typically 8 to 10 years, and currently there are no spares in the tower. Next year will see us having to start provisioning for replacements, if a large cost is to be avoided in a single year.

As we move forward, we plan to develop the band's ability further, which will hopefully lead to more positive comments from all those who stop and listen to us. My thanks to all the band for their attendance and their support in my first year as St George's church tower captain.

John Markham, Tower Captain

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Eco Group Report

Having already achieved "Silver" level in the Eco Award scheme we have, during the past year, carried out further work to maintain our Silver status. In particular, we have tidied the area on the eastern side of the car park, removing old undergrowth and replanting. Bug hotels have been positioned on the boundary wall. A policy of "no mow May" has been adopted on the Green to encourage biodiversity.

During the year awareness events on sustainable transport and "Net Zero in Church" have been held during coffee after the 9.30 service, also greater prominence is given to environmental and sustainability issues as part of the general activities of the church.

We have received a number of budgetary proposals for electric heating in the church. As indicated in last year's report we consider the future heating system will feature a combination of under-pew electric heaters and low temperature electric heating panels appropriately located around the building, essentially heating the people rather than the building. We have conducted a series of visits to other churches to consider what they are doing.

A key issue is power supply, the present electricity supply is inadequate for electrical heating. A new power supply will also be required for the proposed church extension. Until the proposed extension is a reality further work on electric heating is in abeyance.

We have a further five years before we need to meet “net zero”, giving us time consider and review technologies and cost, in what is a developing market.

A more recent development to reduce energy consumption has been to replace the lighting in both the church and hall with low energy LED bulbs. We received from the Diocese a grant of £2,800 to cover the costs of the church pendants. The installation was organised by Building & Grounds.

Other items include:

- We looked at the provision of runner cushions for the pews but the PCC was not in favour.
- The church gas meter has now been changed to a smart meter, making monitoring simpler.
- The provision of electric car chargers in our parking area was discussed with the PCC but the loss of parking spaces v's the income was not attractive.
- The recycling signage/bins in the Hall are much clearer and the bins are now better used (although Hall users are still not great at recycling).

John Clark, on behalf of the Eco Group

Environmental Policy

St. George's Church accepts responsibility for its effects on the environment and is committed to reduce them. As your local Church of England (Anglican) church, one of our Five Marks of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The key points of our strategy to achieve this are:

- a. Frequently emphasise God's love for Creation and our stewardship of nature, through our worship and teaching.
- b. Understand and minimise the impact of our church activities, land and buildings on the environment, especially on the climate and biodiversity.
- c. Implement an awareness program for our congregation, volunteers and staff to enlist their support in improving the church's impact on the environment.
- d. Measure our carbon footprint and set targets for ongoing improvement which achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Understand what would be required to reach this target and draw up an economically sensible action plan to achieve it.
- e. Use future plans to reduce our environmental impact.
- f. Engage with other churches, the Diocese of Newcastle, the Church of England and other local and national partners to understand and follow best environmental practice & guidance in the context of listed church buildings, to secure their help and partnership to get the work done and to hold the national Church to account.
- g. Collaborate with people and groups from our local community on environmental initiatives.
- h. Establish and maintain an Eco Group, chartered by the Parochial Church Council to bring environmental issues and concerns forward to them on a regular basis; with agreed membership, accountability and resources.
- i. Follow the Eco Church programme, aiming to achieve Gold certification by 2030
- j. Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

Signed: 

Dated: April 2025

Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Review: This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

SHARING

Children and Young People Report

Background: What the PCC has chartered the CYP to do/ team members this year

The purpose of the CYP is to 'Help to deliver the Church Vision for children & young people, especially to meet their spiritual & worshipping needs'. Team members throughout the year were Alison, Kay, Lana and Sarah, with Sue Vernon keeping in close touch in an advisory capacity as Safeguarding Officer. Canon Clare left the parish during the year, with much gratitude for her work with children, while she was with us. Rhona Watts, Sue Melbourne and of course Debbie Loughran joined the team during the year.

Highlights

All Age Worship

Who can forget the many all-age worship services this year? Canon Clare led a car journey on Mothering Sunday with contributions from the Junior Choir and many members of the congregation. Malcolm Railton was in charge for Pentecost, with members of the congregation speaking in tongues – no shortage of foreign language speakers at St. George's. We were delighted to welcome Debbie into the CYP group in October. She organised Christ the King Sunday in November, with a retelling of King Josiah's story – Floyd stealing the day as the young King Josiah inspecting the church and the people. The teamwork during those services reflects the strong connections between different age groups in our congregation.

Smarties

After the person who organised the rota for Smarties stepped down in the summer, a questionnaire was circulated to affected young people and their parents about whether to continue having 2 people available each Sunday to run the Smarties group. As a result of the general feeling that the young people we have are involved directly in the services (serving, live stream etc), a recommendation was made to the PCC to discontinue Smarties. This was accepted with regret. We would be delighted to reinstate it if it makes sense. As we do have quite a few very young attendees, offering a creche in the Hall was considered as an alternative. This idea will be easier to organise once the church extension is built, as part of the Community Hub project.

Business as Usual, punctuated with Special Events

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who run regular activities with children and young people. Especially to Christine's team running Little Saints, the volunteers helping Drew with the Junior Choir, the people who were running Smarties until the summer and all of the people involved in All Age worship.

Events with outreach to children & young people in the community this year included the **Good Friday** ecumenical event outside the Boiler House and the annual **Easter Egg** hunt on the Green.

Lana agreed with the PCC that we should have a **table tennis table** available for anyone in the congregation over the age of 8 to use. The de la Hunts kindly donated their table for church use and it is now in the Middleton Room.

The Advent and Christmas season was particularly busy, with the **Christmas Market**, including many well received activities for children in the Mitchell room; the **Living Nativity**, featuring Honey the Donkey, with stops in the local area including both St. Hilda's and Cestria House, followed by refreshments for about 70 people in the Hall; and the **Nativity Service**. The **Christingle Service** was moved to Candlemas in February 2025.

Housekeeping & Maintenance

This year, we decided to tidy up the glory hole in the Middleton room which houses all of the crafting materials used by various groups. We reviewed the Children's Corner, asking for input from those who use it and updating the layout.

We would like your practical help – it doesn't need to be a huge time commitment!

We can use your help and skills in all sorts of ways: Getting materials together for a craft activity; Running an activity during a church event; Making Christingles; Encouraging children and young people to join our Junior Choir or Bell Ringers; Joining the Smarties rota. Do contact us!

Kay Plumley, on behalf of the CYP

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Anna Chaplain Report

The need continues in the Care Homes in Jesmond. The need to be remembered, to be listened to, to be accorded worth and dignity. The work of the Anna Chaplain is to meet and respond to such need, and that is what I have tried to do during the past year.

There are a range of emotions attached to the work of an Anna Chaplain. Certainly sadness as I observe the progress of Alzheimer's Disease taking its toll on residents, but also a sense of satisfaction (if that is the right word) at the difference it can make when someone is noticed, acknowledged with a smile and given time to be heard.

So, I continue to go in weekly to Craghall and Cestria House, and am also visiting (with others) members of our congregation who are resident now in Melton House and Fleming Court, as well as taking Home Communion where it is needed.

I continue what I call the 'outreach' of my ministry as I am invited to join Anna Chaplain Training courses to share my experiences with those in the first stages of taking up the ministry.

Crucial to what I do is to ensure that major festivals are remembered: Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, All Souls Day. This is important for those who have been regular church members and who now find themselves in residential care.

So, there you have it. That is what I have done... and will continue to do as long as I am able.

Joan Grenfell, Anna Chaplain

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Community Hub Steering Group Report

2024 saw the continuing progress of the St George's Hub Community Scheme. At the start of the year the fundraising total was £156,100 and our fundraiser was able to return to some initial trusts which entailed 25 fresh applications for grants, all of these being targeted at the additional Church building.

During the first quarter of the year full tender documentation was prepared by Messrs Simpson & Brown Architects and the associated consultant team on the Church facilities. Tenders were sought from six contractors and tender submissions received on 22nd March. Following full review of costings by the Consultant Quantity Surveyors and members of the project element of the Hub group, a Value Engineering exercise was undertaken to reach a final target total cost. This represented an optimum balance between retaining the original design concepts and the constraints of realistic funding expectation.

At its July meeting, the PCC approved the revised costings for the Church extension and instructed the Fundraiser to proceed to raise funds on this basis. The current revised total therefore for the whole site project then stood at £1.478m. This is likely to see some further increase when comparable updated costings are obtained for the provisional hall plans in spring 2025. This uplift was essentially unsurprising, given the national recognition of substantial increases in raw materials, transport and labour costs.

April was an undoubted fundraising highlight: our largest single donation that of £50,000 from the Dame Margaret Barbour Foundation. The Hub steering group was very grateful to PCC member Brent Swinburne, St George's chief liaison with Dame Margaret. We have also benefited from a number of other generous Legacies. Numerous further grants have been applied for and received through the constant endeavours of Paul Baird our professional fundraising consultant. We owe Paul a great debt of gratitude for his perseverance, dedication, practical, and professional support and enthusiasm. Indeed he personally has been a regular contributor to our funding pot. Paul has provided constant advice and suggestions for the group to action in terms of Community outreach and marketing, alongside undertaking his own many visits to the area, meeting various users and groups and providing invaluable oversight during our period of interregnum. We have also been very grateful for the ongoing support and encouragement of our patron Prof Sir Alan Craft.

The Church Hall planning permission time scales were secured by the replacement of the 3 existing rooflights in the current main hall with new electronic opening Velux windows. These have been received very favourably for the difference they already make

to the hall, and form part of the overall Hall refurbishment scheme. Further review of the original plans for the Hall were also undertaken over the year in order to provide updated internal layout plans for consultation in 2025.

St George's Hub fundraising and wider profile raising events in 2024 included

- Burns night
- Library talk on Hub nature and aims (JW)
- John North Lecture on the context of the building of St George's
- Anna Chaplaincy talk and discussion as to how to better include care home residents in the Community by Joan Grenfell
- Summer Music Night with Elvis during the Jesmond festival
- St Andrews Night Ceilidh

Since her installation on 7 October, the Hub Steering Group has been re-energised by the leadership of our new incumbent Rev Debbie. She has given her whole-hearted support to the scheme and provided new energy, fresh ideas and above all encouragement to refocus on the vision and purpose of the redeveloped St George's site, as it is this vision which will both engage the local community and appeal to fundraisers.

At her first meeting Debbie came up with the following –

Joyful

Engaging

Safe

Modern

Open

Nurturing

Destination



One site for all

Rev Debbie conceived and led an Advent appeal to raise a sum of £15,000 from Parish and Community by Candlemas. At the start of Advent, our total Hub funds amounted to almost £300,000. By year end, it was clear that the Advent Appeal launched by Rev Debbie would overshoot its target. As a result, our fundraiser is able undertake applications to grant bodies for match funding, a huge step forward in potential revenue stream into 2025. We hope and pray to have sufficient funds for 'spades in the ground' behind the church by the end of the year.

A massive thanks to all who have given so generously in both time and financial support to the Hub project.

Derek Nicholson, Janet A Wilson

Charitable Giving Group Report

The group met in early June 2024. There are many well-supported events throughout the year including:

- Children North East rolling collection
- February, Children's Society Boxes
- May, Christian Aid Appeal and Fete
- July, Christ Church School / Children North East Uniform appeal
- September, People's Kitchen Harvest Festival
- November, WERS Christmas Gifts
- December, Christmas Market

All supported the idea of setting out these events together with the Annual Fete and Christmas Market in a calendar format so that people could be prepared and plan their personal contributions. An article was prepared for the Lance.

The 2023 recipients from church funds were reviewed. It was agreed that we should focus more on local needs. The PCC approved the donations on the list below.

Louise Chapman, Joan Grenfell, Hazel Jones-Lee, Margaret Vane, Janet Wilson

Angel tree Christmas gifts for offenders' children	600	https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/angel-tree/
Christ Church C of E Primary School	400	http://www.christchurch.newcastle.sch.uk/
Dementia Matters - Newcastle and Northumberland	300	https://www.dementiamatters.net/
West End food bank	300	https://newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk/
Friends of Jesmond library	100	https://jesmondlibrary.org/
Jesmond Street Pastors	300	https://streetpastors.org/locations/jesmond/
Jesmond Community Forum	150	https://jesmondcommunityforum.org/
Newcastle Branch of Samaritans	300	https://www.samaritans.org/branches/newcastle/
People's Kitchen	300	https://peopleskitchen.co.uk/
Caring Hands - supports independent living for vulnerable elderly Newcastle residents	300	https://www.caringhandscharity.org.uk/
Support for local refugee families	300	
St Oswald's Hospice	300	https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/
Shieldfield Art Works- contemporary art, theological reflection and community activism - under the auspices of the Methodist church	100	https://www.saw-newcastle.org/
Open Doors movement to support persecuted Christians worldwide	250	https://www.opendoorsuk.org/
Total	4000	

Music Report

Parish music making has enjoyed a busy time, with the choir working hard throughout the liturgical year. The promotion of additional concerts and events has continued, and much work has been going on behind the scenes on long-term fundraising solutions for the organ.

The beginning of the year was notable for a concert of Indian Classical music, organised by Professor David Clarke from Newcastle University, and the first broadcasts of hymns recorded for BBC Songs of Praise. These recordings featured a capacity congregation, the parish choir and Kris Thomsett at the organ. In March, the choir sang a Lenten Meditation with the Choir of Hexham Abbey, a performance of Fauré's Requiem, conducted by Drew. On Easter Day we welcomed brass players to the 9.30 Mass, and their festive contribution was a highlight of a musical Holy Week and Easter. Likewise, our Pentecost evensong featured instrumentalists, supported by financial contributions from Friends of Music. The Andrelli String Quartet accompanied our own singers with members of the Royal Grammar School Community Choir in a performance of Lotti's Credo. The annual Kids' Organ Prom featured organist Jonathan Scott, who would go on to play a magnificent solo organ recital in the 2024 BBC Proms (ours came first!).

An organ recital by David Hill (formerly of St John's College, Cambridge, and now Director of the Bach Choir) dedicated to Frederick Peacock began our autumn programme of events, and was followed by a moving performance of the Duruflé Requiem with Vox Populi for All Souls Day. Quickly we found ourselves in the hectic run up to Christmas, with the choir singing a highly atmospheric Advent Procession and the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. During this period we learned that our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish a heritage trail between St George's and Jesmond United Reformed Church had been successful. This project is stage one of a larger initiative to restore both our pipe organ and the Lewis-Willis instrument at JURC and interesting collaborations will now take place between the two churches. There will be many opportunities to get involved, with volunteering at the heart of the project.

My sincere gratitude to all who have encouraged our music making over the past year, with special thanks to donors to the Peacock Choral Scholarship Fund and the Organ Fund. Personal thanks must go to Nigel Russell-Sewell (an able deputy for me when I'm away), Bryony Cowell (librarian), Alison Mattinson (robes), Derek Nicholson (too many jobs to mention!), Hilary Cullingford, Maggie Paczek and Sue Melbourne (Junior Choir), and Roy Large (Hon. Assistant Organist), and to Jonathan Richards for his invaluable administrative support.

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, Director of Music

SENDING

The Churchwardens' Report

The year began with a succession of festivities! An Epiphany party during Parish coffee on 14 January followed by a Burns Night sell-out Community Hub fundraiser, Darling Dollies performance in aid of the Friends of St George's - all culminating in the very successful annual pantomime – The Prince, the Pauper, the Princess and the Peas. In February the ECO group gave a thought-provoking presentation on getting rid of fossil fuels, looking towards Net Zero. The Ministry Team preached from a book on the Psalms by John Bell in Lent and weekly groups each also reflected on a different Psalm. Father Ollie organised weekly Stations of the Cross services at St Hilda's as part of his ongoing ministry there. In March, The Shiney Row Male Voice Choir gave a popular performance in aid of the Friends of St George's.

Very sadly March 2024 was principally marked by the loss of our dear Emeritus Organist, Frederick Peacock, who had served St George's for so many decades. Frederick would have truly appreciated the Capella Messiah, the "Come and Sing" Lenten meditation, and the outstanding singing of St George's Choir leading Choral Eucharist at Durham Cathedral in April. Loved and respected in equal measure, Frederick is missed by all who knew him.

Services on Easter day were attended by 185 worshippers. Then, at Parish coffee, we said farewell to Canon Clare and presented gifts in appreciation of all the work she had done in the Benefice during the six months of her secondment, and to wish her well in her new position as Provost of Sunderland Minster. Some parishioners were able to attend her joyous licensing on 14 April. Only a week later we were saying farewell again - this time to our wonderful Father Ollie who had provided such continuity, patience and wisdom before and during the interregnum. His licensing followed in mid-May at Haydon Bridge – a service of great celebration and rejoicing, conducted by Bishop Mark.

Following the departure of Canon Clare we were very grateful for services of several priests and curates to lead our worship on Thursdays, on Sundays, and who conducted occasional offices. Members of our own Ministry team – Bryan Vernon, and Readers Joan Grenfell, Malcolm Toft and Izzy McDonald-Booth were supported by some familiar faces notably Chris Wardale, Sue Wilson, Rachel Wood, some less familiar faces – Malcolm Railton, Peter Sinclair and Ruth Birnie, and curates - Ruth Stradling, Miriam Jones and Alison McCarthy. Bishop Mark chaired the shortlisting panel, which met to consider five applications following the re advertisement of the Vacancy. Interviews were arranged for three of the applicants on 4 June. Bishop Mark led our April service of Confirmation and Baptism during Choral Evensong.

Work to establish closer community relations is the foundation of the Community Hub project and has led us to participate more fully in the Jesmond Community Forum and Festival. We were delighted that Chris Clarke, the community Forum Treasurer, a

member of the Hub steering group, saw the 2024 St George's Spring Fete as an appropriate opening event for the Jesmond Festival. Bishop Helen-Ann very kindly accepted Father Ollie's invitation formally to open proceedings, which were able - despite rather damp weather - to take place with many, varied musical contributions. A total of £4,500 was raised to support the work of St George's. The first bank holiday in May was however on reflection not perhaps the ideal timing for the event going forward, being too early for the plant stall and due to the absence of some regular stall leaders. All agreed next year it should be later in May or in June, ideally avoiding bank holidays. Tom Furness was commended for all his work. St Georges featured in many other events as part of the Jesmond Festival. Summer weekly organ recitals started and there was an extremely popular 'Kids' Prom' – Carnival of the Animals - complete with animated film which brightened up an otherwise wet afternoon in Whit half term. Equally popular were the Friends of St George's "Singers' concert" and the "Summer Night with Elvis", featuring Gary Jay, a well-known tribute artist. Such events raised funds for the Organ Restoration Project, Friends of St George's and the Community Hub.

The carefully planned interviews for the Vacancy on 4 June allowed the three shortlisted applicants an opportunity to meet multiple members of the congregation from both parishes to discuss the range of issues currently facing the Benefice. The appointment of Rev Debbie Loughran, Rural Dean of Telford, to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda was greatly welcomed. When the announcement was made public on 30 June, everyone was delighted that we were to be led by such an experienced and popular priest.

June was also marked by the most moving and special Service of Thanksgiving for Frederick Peacock. The church was full of so many people who held Frederick dear in their hearts over a lifetime of his devotion and commitment to St George's, and there also to support Barbara and the family. A turnout of musicians, worshippers and former choristers and pupils from far and wide filled the church, with the service led by Bishop Nick and with a most moving Eulogy from Derek Nicholson. The attendance was further extended by the ability to live stream for many who were unable to attend, with messages of love and appreciation coming immediately after the service via social media from all over the UK, and even as far as Canada. The music chosen by Drew, complemented by Frederick's own favourite hymns, was so suitable for the occasion, and beautifully sung by the choir; a truly appropriate way to demonstrate Fredrick's lasting legacy. We all miss him greatly.

During National Heritage Open week, Barbara Peacock offered the unique insight of her historic and heritage tour. Visitors also enjoyed the organ playing of Rev. Dr Roy Large. The Harvest Festival on 6 October was inevitably low key, being on the eve of the Licensing service the following evening. Nonetheless the congregation as ever contributed a very generous haul of donations for the People's Kitchen. In late November, there was a similar generous response to the request for Christmas Gifts for those supported by the West End Refugee Service.

The 7 October 2024 Licensing was a day of great celebration across the Benefice, in a beautiful service led by Bishop Helen-Ann, Archdeacon Ven. Rachel Wood and Area Dean Revd. Paul Baker – well over 100 were present and enjoyed a feast for the senses - magnificent music from Director of Music Drew and the choir, Vera's stunning flowers and many community warm wishes, followed by a delicious buffet courtesy of the indefatigable catering team under the watchful eye of Linsley de la Hunt. Rev Debbie, interviewed for The Journal expressed her intention to "hit the ground running". And indeed – she did!

Within a few months, Rev Debbie's presence was beginning to make a palpable difference to the life and work of the parish. At the end of November, the St Andrew's Night Ceilidh raised £600 for the Community Hub and attracted many from out with the church congregation including several student groups. The Christmas Market raised £4,500, despite the most atrocious weather of horizontal cold rain. The weather was kinder for the Open House at the Vicarage on 15 Dec - a brilliant afternoon of conversation and warm hospitality appreciated by everyone.

We had many very popular worship events spearheaded by Rev Debbie through Advent, boosting the reach and funds of the Community Hub Advent Appeal. Over 1,500 people attended Advent services for schools and civic organisations, including the ever- popular service of lighting St George's Christmas tree, sponsored by the annual generosity of the Watson Family Trust. The Living Nativity promenade led by Honey the donkey attracted a good number of followers, and was particularly appreciated by the residents of Cestria house when the procession including Honey entered the lounge to spread glad tidings. Rev Debbie held a scratch Nativity in the afternoon of Christmas Eve which was attended by 120 including many non-regular churchgoers – an event of great good humour and children's participation - the embodiment of the spirit of Christmas. In all 1,194 people attended services on Christmas and Christmas Day.

The Benefice gives thanks for the blessing of Rev Debbie Loughran. For her joy, and good humour; her insight and industry. She has renewed a sense of confidence and optimism as we look forward to 2025 and all that it will bring to the life of St George's and St Hilda's.

Janet Wilson, Churchwarden

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as warden during the interregnum, when we have benefited greatly from the ministry of Father Ollie, Canon Clare, and many visiting clergy. The successful appointment of Reverend Debbie as our incumbent for St Hilda and St George was the highlight of 2024. Being warden gives one the opportunity to "meet and greet", to get to know new members of the congregation and to smile and laugh with the children at the back. I would recommend it! Furthermore, it also helps one to realise just how many people contribute to the life of the church, in many diverse ways. Finally, it has given me the opportunity to work alongside Janet, who has always been a great friend, and now is even more so.

Enid Pearson, Churchwarden

Buildings and Grounds Report

Thankfully, no major issues beset the church, hall or grounds through the course of 2024.

The primary concern over the last 12 months has been various problems with the main church boiler system. Ultimately the system has finally been put back to full working order with additional remote timing controls located in the tower vestry. Two of the hall convector heaters were replaced with much quieter and more efficient models and two defective convectors in the church were repaired. The ECO group continue to explore the most environmentally friendly way of keeping people warm in the great space of St George's.

Other minor repairs and making good have taken place as necessary. The delicate repair of damaged floor mosaics (tesserae) by specialist conservation firm Messrs Skillington Ltd. was funded by the generosity of the Friends of St George's. Improved security has been installed for main hall (keypad) and lone workers in the office (buzzer intercom entry). In advance of Rev. Debbie's arrival, the clergy vestry and part of the tower vestry were redecorated, and the rear vicarage garden partially cleared. The church hall had modest improvements made at the beginning of the year with the introduction of 3 new electrically operated rooflights.

The five-year Quinquennial inspection (QI) was due this year and has been duly undertaken in November complete with drone survey. Some initial observations concerning the church tower slate louvres were logged and were scheduled to be rectified early in 2025.

Following competitive tender for new QI services, the inspection and report were undertaken by Mr Tristan Spicer of Doonan Architects, Hexham. Tristan replaces Ian Ness to whom we are extremely grateful for his custodianship over several years.

Indeed, it was Ian's design that was used to create the new major piece of furniture in the church, the new wooden lectern steps that now afford much better access assistance with a double handrail in place. We are grateful for the very generous legacy bequeathed by Miss Ann Biles which made this beautiful new addition to our interior possible.

The Parish benefits enormously from the "Tuesday Group" who do a sterling job every week in undertaking a myriad of gardening, housekeeping and general maintenance jobs and we are extremely grateful to them all. Special thanks to Ian Spencer who never has a "dull" moment with all the electrics and lighting on the site.

Similarly, all those who wield a duster or mop each month in cleaning of the church to keep it looking so good deserve mention herein – thanks to one and all.

Derek Nicholson and Janet Wilson

Deanery Synod Report

This has been a transition year for the Central Newcastle Deanery Synod, as the Revd. Pauline Pearson retired as acting Area Dean in the spring and Revd. Paul Baker took over in summer.

St. George's Synod representatives this year were:

Elected reps: Mike Delahunt, Kay Plumley

Ex officio: Clare MacLaren (until Easter), Izzy McDonald Booth (as Lay Chair of the Diocesan and now General Synods), Debbie Loughran (since October)

The focus of the work this year has been in 3 areas:

Worship

Every Deanery Synod meeting starts with a short act of worship. As a particular focus since October 2024, our Bishop, Helen-Ann, has invited us all to a "Year of Seeking". This is part of a 3 year 'Seeking, Sharing, Sending' process. This focus would prioritise prayer and discernment - as individuals, small groups, parishes, chaplaincies and deaneries - and seek to pay attention to where God is at work in our communities and contexts.

Deanery Development Plan

The Deanery Development Plan aims to share people, time and resources across the churches and parishes in the Deanery, including clergy, lay leaders and retired clergy. It has 5 focus areas:

1. Leadership & Governance
2. Mission & Pastoral Care
3. Buildings fit for purpose
4. Development of Lay Ministry
5. Generous Giving

The Environment ran as a common thread through all of these and it was noted that our Deanery has the highest % of churches signed up for Eco church in the Newcastle Diocese (St. George's has a silver award).

Within the 5 areas is a long list of all of the things which we might do. Parishes were asked to choose priorities for themselves, which we reported on last year. There has been good collaboration mainly in the area of children & young people, with a Good Friday youth event and a Lifepath event in summer run by Holy Trinity (with many other churches), which attracted 160 Year 4 children.

Deanery Finances

Every meeting included an update on Deanery finances (Parish Share). Much of Parish Share is spent on clergy stipends and clergy housing, as well as training across the whole of our Diocese. In 2024, Parish Share offerings from the 20 churches in the Deanery were enough to support 22 clergy positions, insufficient to fully support ministry in areas which cannot afford to pay for their clergy. We learned that the Diocese, which funds shortfalls,

has been running a deficit since Covid, now totalling £1.5 million. As this is not sustainable, all parishes were urged to help and support ministry and mission in our Diocese, including sharing the funding of the work. Specifically, we have all been asked to increase our offering to Parish Share by 8%. In parallel, the number of clerical positions in the organisation design across the Diocese will be reduced. Please note that Parish Share does not pay for the Bishop, although it does pay for central support staff in areas like Safeguarding and Children & Youth work.

We continue to work together and support one another in the Central Deanery in a positive and constructive way.

Mike de la Hunt, Debbie Loughran, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Kay Plumley

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Safeguarding Report

The new databases from the Diocese have made it easier to maintain easy records of DBS and training: prior to this there was no centralised system.

This year has been relatively quiet with mercifully no safeguarding incidents of any significance I am pleased to say.

It will not have passed anyone that the church of England sadly finds itself in a safeguarding quagmire, with several major historical safeguarding incidents. The Jay report was clear in its recommendations which have failed to be endorsed by Synod. Bishop Helen-Ann has been clear and outspoken in her support of the abused. After a period of uncertainty, when our previous safeguarding team resigned a new Diocesan Safeguarding advisor has just been appointed; I am sure she will give direction and clarity to safeguarding in the parishes.

As a parish we continue to endeavour to put into action important checks and training - the parish has been very supportive in taking part in checks and training. In my time on the Diocesan Safeguarding board we have finalised guidelines for Children and the Media. I hope St Georges will ratify them. It is noteworthy that the need for them has become even more urgent as the danger/misuse of the media has grown.

After over ten years being PSO at St George's, through two major safeguarding incidents, I will be retiring at the Church Meeting in May.

Dr Sue Vernon, Parish Safeguarding Officer

THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S JESMOND
SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 9th April 2024

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually
- This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Meeting

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Dr Sue Vernon (suejvernon@icloud.com) as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent vacancy

Churchwardens Joseph Wilson Emd Pearson

Date 9/4/24

This policy is to be reviewed annually and re-affirmed at the APCM

Friends of St George's Report

Another busy year in which we have tried to put on a good variety of events appealing to people across the board.

2024 started with the ever popular Darling Dollies in February, as always very well attended and with a fine selection of the best songs from the 40's, 50's and 60's. A sumptuous tea was served in the interval and huge thanks are due to those volunteers and bakers who put this together.

In March the Sunderland Male Voice Choir entertained us in church – an excellent evening.

The Friends year starts on St George's Day (appropriately enough) and we held our AGM on that day with (for the first time) a raffle draw – everybody knows how much I love raffles! In May The Singers' offered a Spring Concert for us during the Jesmond Festival, most generously giving us all the proceeds. They are repeating their great kindness at the start of this year's Jesmond festival for which we are very grateful. At the start of June

we held our Annual Dinner, always starting with lashings of fizz on the Green - sometimes in warm summer sunshine, sometimes not - followed by an excellent meal with a mixture of congregation and community, chatting away in a relaxed and fun-filled evening. Newcastle Concert Band gave a concert later in June, now a regular event and we very much look forward to hosting them.

An innovation on the four Sundays in July from 2-4pm was to provide TEA ON THE GREEN (and Pimms on the final Sunday). It was well advertised and very popular, with people just dropping in - so popular that we are repeating it again this year, but avoiding a clash with the Wimbledon Final and also extending it to five weeks.

Friday and Saturday the 6th and 7th September were Heritage Open Days, with a tour of the church on offer and an exhibition detailing the history of St George's from its consecration in October 1888.

In October the Felling Male Voice Choir gave a concert, a second appearance for them. We had a stall at St George's Christmas Market, a good opportunity to sell some of our merchandise and we rounded 2024 off with the very welcome return of The Singers' and their superb annual Christmas Concert.

Barbara Peacock, Hon. Chair of FOSG

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Refugee Support Report

This has been a busy and challenging year. More recently a Ukraine family have taken possession of a property in Gosforth. They are working hard making it a home for their family and extremely hard in a challenging garden! I suspect we may see their produce as nurture and nature takes its course. Coming to terms with such changes in their lives cannot be underestimated. We wish them well.

Families from Persia, Syria, and Afghanistan, whom we have supported through to 'move on' mode, have and are setting up homes in Gateshead and Newcastle. A hard task with very little to their name but their dignity, thankfully, and without family support. We also anxiously await news of one family's asylum application which is long overdue.

All of these families are very supportive of one another and are very happy to assist us on occasions.

In the last weeks we have been approached by two people living in a place of safety in Jesmond.

The agencies we have been fortunate enough to be involved with over these past three years are now assisting, and hopefully they will find their situation regularised and then dispersed into secure sustainable accommodation as soon as possible.

In the meantime we shall continue to support them throughout this difficult time in what continues to be a very distressing period in their lives.

Currently we have 42 folk actively on our radar including children from ages 2 to 18. They are coping! War and persecution behind them but still impacting their lives.

There have been a great many more who have been dispersed moved on and some likely facing deportation. However whilst seeking support from St George's we have done what we can to alleviate as much of their very obvious needs and their sadness during life changing times.

Pauline Magnay

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Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statements for 2024 form part of this overall report and there is a detailed financial review included with those accounts, so in this Treasurer's report I will focus my attention on the headlines and main issues.

Total unrestricted income for the year was £199,735, including a proportion of a generous legacy. This is a reduction from 2023, of which the most significant part is attributable to a decrease in Planned Giving, which is so important to the continuing prosperity of the Church. It must be recognised that so many of our parishioners also generously contribute additional sizeable sums, large proportions of which have been made to the Hub and Organ Restoration Projects, which are restricted funds.

Other income has been virtually static. Income from trading activities has shown a small increase of 3.1%; Church Hall letting and Church hire have increased by £1,886 but income from our houses in St. George's Close has not increased, whilst their maintenance and insurance costs have risen. Unrestricted income from fund-raising

events, primarily the Summer Fête and Christmas Fayre, was almost identical to the previous year.

Much of the financial activity in the year has focused on restricted funds, primarily for the Hub and Organ Restoration projects. Altogether, £252,513 has been received although that, of course, can only be spent on the projects for which it was raised; the PCC is required by law to ensure that all restricted funds remain ring-fenced for their specific purposes.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £212,172, representing an increase over 2023 of only 0.2%. That was achieved in the face of rising inflation and, whilst the PCC takes care to control costs, there is still some room for further savings. Fortunately, this included a reduction on utility bills for the Church and Church Hall, compared to the large increases in the previous year but this was offset by the need to spend significant amounts repairing and improving the Church boiler and bird-proofing parts of the Church Tower. Parish Share payments to the Diocese remained at £90,000 amounting to 45% of all unrestricted income.

As a result of these many factors there was a net deficit in 2024 of £12,959 on unrestricted funds, much of this is due to the cost of vital repairs to the Church. Leaving aside the need to spend significant amounts on such repairs and maintenance, there has been some return to stability. Problems persist, particularly in the face of declining income from planned giving and the likelihood that expenditure will be required in 2025 to address issues raised by the quinquennial inspection, so careful financial control and management of costs will need to continue, if free reserves are to be restored to an acceptable level.

Of particular benefit during the year were the generous donations of £22,342 from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust to provide support to the PCC in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings.

Restricted funds have been referred to above and the amount of work on these projects has been considerable. The net total of £110,529 standing to the Credit on The Hub fund does not include pledges made but not yet received and in 2025 some expenditure will be required to keep the project going. After several successful fundraising activities, the Organ Restoration Fund stood at £25,883 at 31st December 2024.

The 1888 Project is a partnership established with Jesmond United Reformed Church and, towards the end of 2024, a grant for the heritage trail element of the project was agreed by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the first phase of the which of £81,800 is being held in a restricted fund, to be kept on behalf of the partnership.

Despite the achievements in the year, there is some way to go to restore financial strength and, since the year-end, it will be necessary to continue striving for improvement in Church income and control of costs. The PCC intends to honour its commitment to increase Parish Share payments to £97,200 in 2025 and will necessarily

keep the position under review to identify an appropriate fair share for the future, in an endeavour to make payments that are both fair and affordable.

As I am standing down as Treasurer after nearly four years in the role, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me and contributed to the financial management of the Parish, particularly the Churchwardens and Jonathan, without whose efforts my task would have been much more difficult. Brian originally asked me to serve for two years and I was happy to extend that, especially during the interregnum, and it is so pleasing to see how Debbie has brought a transformative approach to so many aspects of the Parish's activities. During those four years fortunes have been mixed but the overriding successes must be the development of the plans for the Hub and the Organ Restoration projects. When it comes to everyday activities that keep the Church running, the PCC is not out of the financial woods and the priorities must continue to be to increase income and keep costs firmly under control. I believe that the financial position now is stronger than when I took over and I wish Debbie, the new Treasurer and the PCC as a whole well for the future prosperity, in every sense, of St. George's Church.

Mike Ranson, Treasurer

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church
Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2024**



The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

Annual Meetings 2024

- Chair: Professor Janet Wilson, Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council
[The Benefice of St George and St Hilda, Jesmond, is in interregnum]
- Present: 36 members of the Parish community
- Apologies: Jean Davies, Jon Davies, Joan Grenfell, Linsley de la Hunt, Roy Large, Alison Mattinson, Julian Plumley, Kay Plumley, Mike Ranson, Peter Rodgers, Ian Spencer, Malcolm Toft, Sue Vernon.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners
held on Sunday 28 April 2024**

at 11 am in the Church Hall

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell, Honorary Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, was appointed Clerk to the Annual Meetings.
3. Two nominations were received for the role of Churchwarden: Enid Pearson and Janet Wilson (proposed: Joan Rooney, seconded: Hazel Jones-Lee). They were appointed unopposed.
4. The meeting closed at 11.04 am.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 28 April 2024**

at 11.05 am in the Church Hall

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the meetings held on 30 April 2023 were approved.

3. The Electoral Roll: 206 names recorded, an increase of five from last year. Noted: the Roll renews in 2025 and everyone will need to register afresh.
4. The list of Sidespeople circulated was noted, with the addition of Sue Melbourne.
5. Election to Deanery Synod: there is a vacancy following the resignation of Alex Walker. No nominations were received. The vacancy may be filled at a later date.
6. Election to the Parochial Church Council: there are two vacancies on the PCC. Two valid nominations were received:

Brent Swinburn (proposed: Jack Burn; seconded: Graham Rutt)

Alison Mattinson (proposed: Hazel Jones-Lee; seconded: Barbara Peacock)

Both were duly appointed to serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

7. The following reports were received: the proceedings of the PCC; Churchwardens; Fixtures and fittings; and Proceedings of Deanery Synod. An amendment was made to the Churchwardens' report: the reference to Children Northeast receiving 400 items of school uniform in the September entry should be amended to say that "the 400 items of school uniform were donated equally between Children Northeast and Christchurch School Shieldfield".
8. An overview of the Honorary Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2023 was presented by Rachel Oswald, representing the Independent Examiner. The very positive impact of the generous recurring support from the Catherine Cookson Foundation for our day-to-day expenditure was highlighted. Thanks were offered to the Honorary Treasurer for all his work.
 - Q. Why did we pay £450 in bank charges?
 - A. We have a business account for which monthly charges and transaction charges apply.
 - Q. Is all the money that has come in for The Hub shown in the accounts?
 - A. Yes. Donations and grants received since end-December 2023 do not appear in these accounts.
 - Q. Who is looking after our investments?
 - A. CBF Investment Fund and Epworth Investment Fund.
 - Q. What do we see as the impact on Diocesan activity of our reduced Parish Share.
 - A. The Charity Commission requires organisations to have a reasonable period of running costs in an accessible fund. For us this means £45,000. We are now at £30,000 thanks to the industry of the Honorary Treasurer turning around several years of successive losses. Furthermore, the Honorary Treasurer identified historic inconsistencies in the derivation of what had been our Parish Share until a few years ago and he will be happy to discuss his research one to one on his return.
9. John Oswald of Stephenson Coates was appointed Independent Examiner (proposed: Izzy McDonald Booth; seconded: Geoff White; approved unanimously).

10. The Safeguarding report was received. The Safeguarding Policy was reaffirmed unanimously.
11. The Inclusive Church Statement was reaffirmed unanimously.
12. Reports from St George's community committees and groups were received. Noted: the Children and Young People's group would welcome further support.
 - Q. The accounts show just over £12k in a restricted fund for the Family and Youth Worker. Can we not use this to support the group?
 - A. The group is not in a position to appoint a worker. Activity is low at the moment. The group is thinking through options for long-term support.
13. The Environmental Policy was reaffirmed.
14. The Hub Steering Group will have a public meeting in the coming months.
15. The Chair made some remarks (see below).
16. The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.07 pm.

Chair's Remarks

Vacancy

Enid and I are on the Appointments Committee together with the wardens from St Hilda's, Bishop Mark (the Bishop of Berwick) and the Venerable Rachel Wood (Archdeacon of Northumberland). We are now in a position to interview in early June. We cannot really say much more about it than that so please do not embarrass us and yourselves by asking! Although we have clearly identified potentially applicants following our re-advertisement, the fact that we are interviewing does not necessarily mean we shall make an appointment after this first round of interviews. We agree with Bishop Mark that it is much better to spend a little longer on the search than to rush into a suboptimal appointment.

At its last meeting the PCC considered a newspaper article in The Times, Friday 9 February, the headline is "Vicars being hounded out by bullying parishioners". Strapline 'aggressive behaviour and harassment campaigns prompt calls for Church of England to bring in code of conduct to protect priests and lay members'. Copies of this article are available on request from myself or the PCC Secretary. In the article, the Venerable Mark Ireland (Archdeacon of Blackburn) said he had been inundated with distressing correspondence from clergy and clergy spouses who have been subjected to bullying and harassment. At the same time there are many disturbing examples of lay officers bullying other members of the congregation. A second motion been presented to Synod calls for a new code of conduct for PCC members.

What is perhaps depressing is that looking back you can see that in 2008 very similar parishioner bullying was reported by the BBC. The PCC had a very open discussion about this problem and some very interesting points were forthcoming. We agreed the best thing perhaps would be to open up this discussion with yourselves as representing the parish at large and I welcome your comments.

Noted from the floor: if someone has a complaint about the Vicar they should go to the Churchwardens in the first instance. The Churchwardens have a duty of care towards the Vicar. This will be highlighted in The Lance.

Thanks

At about this point in every APCM the Chair offers thanks. I am a new warden and Enid is an experienced warden and I think it's wonderful that we have very complementary areas of specific interest and think we would both agree that we have had a tremendous amount of support from all sorts of people who are working very hard. In fact, it seems that it would be easier to mention people who aren't doing anything than to thank all of you who are.

If you feel that you are not working very hard you are in the minority and please step forward and jobs will be found! For the willing majority I think all that Enid and I could say is 'thank you' and draw on the comfort that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

I feel I am duty bound, however, to mention the band of church cleaners. We are an enthusiastic band of assorted sexes. If we have a reasonable turnout it is a relatively quick job – each person has a task: somebody polishes the pews; others deal with windowsills; the choir stalls or steps. As we have a borderline quorum, if one or two people don't turn up then the job for those who are left becomes quite big. People have commented, "don't you have cleaners to do that?". Obviously we pay for Hall cleaning and I'm sure you all agree that Gosia does a first-class job considering the level of foot-fall. Due to the size of the church were we to hire in a team of professional cleaners once a month even if we could find a team guaranteed to handle the fragile elements of our heritage respectfully, the bill would be hundreds if not thousands per annum. Please do consider joining the team at 9.30 am on the third Saturday of the month getting the church ready for the next day when we have Choral Evensong. It is a privilege to get very up close and personal to the fabric of our marvellous building.

The other thing I must mention is the annual fête. Tom Furness and Tom Klenka, leading on organisation and health and safety among many other commitments in their lives, are doing a fantastic job. Thank you for everyone who has helped or will help.

Planned giving

It has been the policy of the PCC not to embark on a formal stewardship campaign when we do not have a vicar. Nonetheless Planned Giving has been falling in real terms year on year. Caroline has put a lot of work preparing the Planned Giving documents. I thank her enormously, having stood down as Treasurer after a long term of office, for carrying on with GiftAid management. One of the things that makes Caroline's life a lot more simple is the use of Planned Giving because of the way GiftAid is reclaimed. This is all set out with Caroline's customary clarity. Please read carefully her short summary and consider whether if you're not using this form of donation it might work for you. Or if like myself you find that your quantum has become rather stagnant consider giving it a nudge if you are able.

Charitable giving

This appears as a £4500 expenditure in the calendar year 2023 however this is because there was late payment of the donations from 2022. £2500 is new so to speak for 2023, representing a £500 increase on 2022. The PCC were keen further to

increase charitable giving in 2024. At the December PCC a further increment to £4000 to be donated in this calendar year was approved. The PCC were also keen to see a more even distribution of giving throughout the year rather than galloping to look for good causes in the late autumn or early winter. The bottom line is that we look to increase the number of people involved in choosing charities particularly now this sum is effectively doubled from what it was in 2022. If anyone is interested please contact the PCC Secretary or myself. Our recipients in 2023 were:

- Angel tree Christmas gifts for offenders children
- Open Door International
- Children Northeast
- Dementia Matters
- Trussell Trust Food Bank
- United Society Partners in the Gospel
- Friends of Jesmond Library
- Jesmond Street Pastors
- Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed
- People's Kitchen
- Jesmond Community Forum
- Support for refugee children by Pauline Magnay

Assistant Treasurer

A related matter is the ongoing search for an Assistant Treasurer. We are all very grateful for the vast amount of work that Mike Ranson has put in together with Jonathan and the auditors represented today by Rachel Oswald from Stephenson Coates. When Mike agreed to become Honorary Treasurer the original pact was that he would serve two years. He has now served three years and very magnanimously has said he will not abandon us in an interregnum. Mike however plans to demit office a year from now and I think this advance notice is very helpful. It's obviously going to be difficult for us to replace him but if someone can step forward now, and work alongside him as a *de facto* Assistant Treasurer, it would make the job much less daunting. So anyone who can manage an Excel spreadsheet and has a reasonable level of financial literacy might then please consider this post; John Oswald and Mike are not going anywhere soon so anyone who took on the job would have friends in the background. The relationship with the Treasurer and the PCC is that the Treasurer is an elected member of the PCC.

Professor Janet Wilson
Lay Chair St George's PCC
28 April 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

20 April 2025

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne

NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023*
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies		109,041	245,465	-	354,506	184,686
Other trading activities		68,085	5,829	-	73,914	70,813
Investments		6,073	707	1,986	8,766	4,875
Church activities		13,843	322	-	14,165	15,470
Other income		2,693	190	-	2,883	7,299
TOTAL INCOME	1	199,735	252,513	1,986	454,234	283,143
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds		1,676	3,609	-	5,285	4,767
Church activities		212,172	53,525	1,986	267,683	242,197
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	213,848	57,134	1,986	272,968	246,964
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(14,113)	195,379	-	181,266	36,179
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		1,154	-	1,637	2,791	7,133
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(12,959)	195,379	1,637	184,057	43,312
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	9	22,342	(22,342)	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979	1,104,667
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		985,608	273,261	73,167	1,332,036	1,147,979

*The full statement of financial affairs for 2023 is shown in note 11 to the financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4	861,036	862,205
Investments	4	<u>98,451</u>	<u>95,660</u>
		959,487	957,865
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	111,392	11,959
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>278,342</u>	<u>185,578</u>
		389,734	197,537
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	17,185	7,423
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		372,549	190,114
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,332,036</u>	<u>1,147,979</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	985,608	976,225
Restricted	8,9	273,261	100,224
Endowment	8,9	<u>73,167</u>	<u>71,530</u>
		1,332,036	1,147,979

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Rev'd Debbie Loughran, Chair

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 INCOME	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	76,971	20	-	76,991	79,066
Tax recoverable	19,971	5,317	-	25,288	29,802
Collections (open plate) at all services	1,201	3,054	-	4,255	4,528
Sundry donations	5,923	21,622	-	27,545	43,468
Legacies	4,975	22,000	-	26,975	2,000
Grants	-	193,452	-	193,452	25,822
	109,041	245,465	-	354,506	184,686
Other trading activities					
Church hall letting	23,826	-	-	23,826	22,285
Church hire	3,181	-	-	3,181	2,836
Property rental income	24,600	-	-	24,600	24,600
Fund-raising events	16,478	5,829	-	22,307	21,092
	68,085	5,829	-	73,914	70,813
Investments					
Dividends	810	-	1,986	2,796	2,752
Interest	5,263	707	-	5,970	2,123
	6,073	707	1,986	8,766	4,875
Church activities					
Fees	13,004	322	-	13,326	13,870
Magazines	839	-	-	839	1,600
	13,843	322	-	14,165	15,470
Other income					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	4,578
St Hilda's contribution (ministry costs)	-	-	-	-	1,580
Sundry	2,693	190	-	2,883	1,141
	2,693	190	-	2,883	7,299
TOTAL INCOME	199,735	252,513	1,986	454,234	283,143

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

2

EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Missions and other Church Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable donations	3,709	673	-	4,382	4,814
	3,709	673	-	4,382	4,814
Ministry:					
Parish Share	90,000	-	-	90,000	90,000
Clergy expenses	736	-	-	736	2,076
Clergy housing expenses	(52)	-	-	(52)	6,214
Fees paid to diocese	2,615	-	-	2,615	3,198
Church – running expenses	21,569	-	-	21,569	24,528
Church maintenance	29,349	55	1,404	30,808	22,378
Upkeep of services	4,364	-	-	4,364	3,573
Parish magazine and publicity	524	1,032	-	1,556	1,323
Church Hall running costs	12,892	-	-	12,892	12,879
Church Hall maintenance	2,748	10,700	-	13,448	1,238
Other property upkeep	2,669	-	582	3,251	3,830
Whole site plan development	-	30,657	-	30,657	10,805
Flowers	399	1,045	-	1,444	2,841
Asset depreciation	-	1,169	-	1,169	1,169
Others	4,885	1,146	-	6,031	6,172
Organ and choir	14,684	6,974	-	21,658	22,429
Children and young people	166	74	-	240	2,055
Printing, stationery and office costs	5,975	-	-	5,975	4,741
Office administration	12,791	-	-	12,791	12,792
Bank charges	430	-	-	430	453
Professional fees	-	-	-	-	1,026
Independent examiner's fees, including payroll	1,719	-	-	1,719	1,663
Total Church activities	212,172	53,525	1,986	267,683	242,197
Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising activities	1,676	3,609	-	5,285	4,767
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	213,848	57,134	1,986	272,968	246,964

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

3	STAFF COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
	Wages and salaries	20,262	21,433
	Pension costs	373	419
		20,635	21,852

During the year the PCC employed an administrator and a director of music.

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and office equipment £	Total £
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2024	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	300,751	33,029	333,780
Charge in year	-	1,169	1,169
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	300,751	34,198	334,949
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	861,036	-	861,036
At 31 December 2023	861,036	1,169	862,205

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The latest valuations for insurance purposes amounted to £5,261,000.

Investments

At market valuation:	2024 £	2023 £
3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	73,166	71,530
14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	25,285	24,130
	98,451	95,660

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2024 is £51,916 (2023: £51,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2024	95,660
Purchases	-
Revaluation of investments	2,791
At 31 December 2024	98,451

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets	-	886,320	-	73,167	959,487
Current Assets	87,768	28,705	273,261	-	389,734
Current liabilities	(17,185)	-	-	-	(17,185)
	70,583	915,025	273,261	73,167	1,332,036

6 DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Gift aid recoverable	4,020	4,614
Legacy receivable	24,975	-
1888 Project grant receivable	81,800	-
Sundry debtors and accrued income	597	7,345
	111,392	11,959

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors for goods and services	14,493	5,524
Accruals and deferred income	2,692	1,899
	17,185	7,423

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	53,989	-	-	53,989
General fund	70,583	-	-	70,326
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,177	-	1,177
Donations restricted by donors – access to capital and interest	-	272,084	-	272,341
Donations restricted by donors – access to interest only	-	-	73,167	73,167
	985,608	273,261	73,167	1,332,036

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	52,025	810	-	-	1,154	53,989
General	63,164	198,925	(213,848)	22,342	-	70,583
Total Unrestricted funds	976,225	199,735	(213,848)	22,342	1,154	985,608

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources		Balance 31 December 2024 £
			Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Bell Ringers fund	1,075	-	322	(220)	1,177
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	37,634	-	708	(1,169)	37,173
Flowers	479	-	1,259	(1,045)	693
Family & Youth leader fund	12,675	-	-	(147)	12,528
Choral Scholarships	1,686	-	5,250	(3,950)	2,986
Director of Music	-	-	1,571	(1,571)	-
Singing Group	257	-	-	(257)	-
Music	294	-	2,117	(2,370)	41
The Hub	23,556	-	130,185	(43,212)	110,529
Organ Restoration project	22,117	-	6,286	(2,520)	25,883
The Cookson Fund	-	(22,342)	22,342	-	-
The 1888 Project	-	-	81,800	-	81,800
Other grants and donations	331	-	673	673	331
Total Restricted funds	100,224	(22,342)	252,513	(57,134)	273,261

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader and Director of Music funds are sums raised to support the work of those roles.

The Singing Group fund was donated by Jesmond Dementia Action Alliance, to fund a further 40 sessions of the singing group they established.

The Hub relates to the project to add an extension to the Church and redevelop the Hall and all associated activities (formerly known as the Whole Site Plan).

The Organ Restoration project relates to the full restoration of the St George's organ which was built in 1887.

The 1888 Project is a partnership established in 2024 with Jesmond United Reformed Church. It has the overarching aim to work together to restore the organs of the churches and includes the creation of a Jesmond Heritage Trail.

The Cookson Fund. The Trustees of the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust have generously offered to make donations to support the PCC of St. George's Church in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings. The PCC has established the Cookson Fund to hold this income and apply it in accordance with the purposes specified by the Trustees. During the year donations totalling £22,342 were received, all of which were used for those purposes and a transfer of £22,342 from the Cookson Fund to the general, unrestricted fund has been made at the year end.

The other funds have similarly been restricted by donors so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS *(continued)*

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	71,530	1,986	(1,986)	-	1,637	73,167

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, Nigel Russell-Sewell was paid a £1,200 Choral scholarship. Other members of the PCC were reimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC amounting in total to £4,253.

11 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	109,219	75,467	-	184,686	176,356
Other trading activities	66,065	4,748	-	70,813	53,271
Investments	2,724	166	1,955	4,875	3,677
Church activities	15,305	165	-	15,470	15,014
Other income	7,137	162	-	7,299	21,585
TOTAL INCOME	200,480	80,708	1,955	283,143	269,903
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	614	4,153	-	4,767	1,184
Church activities	211,669	28,573	1,955	242,197	238,589
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	212,283	32,726	1,955	246,964	239,773
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	(11,803)	47,982	-	36,179	30,130
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
- unrealised	981	-	6,152	7,133	(12,097)
- realised	-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(10,822)	47,982	6,152	43,312	18,003
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	15,322	(15,322)	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023	971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667	1,086,634
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979	1,104,667

Accounts



Photo credit: Revd. John Potter

Annual Reports and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond, for the year ending 31st December 2023

Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond
Registered Charity No. 1132758

Aim and Purpose

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Brian Hurst (to June 2023), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Church Hall, Tower House, Close house, and the Green.

Objectives and Activities

St George's seeks to be an Inclusive Church and has set the following areas of focus for our energies:

- Open and welcoming church community
- Inclusive and traditional worship
- Questioning and nurturing faith
- Relevant and engaged in the wider world

PCC Members who served during 2023

Ex Officio

Incumbent: Reverend Canon Brian Hurst (to June 2023)

Curate: Reverend Oliver Dempsey

Interim Minister: Reverend Canon Clare MacLaren (since October 2023)

Lay Reader and Anna Chaplain: Joan Grenfell

Churchwardens: Graham Hatt (to July 2023), Enid Pearson (2023-2025), Janet Wilson (2023-2026)

General Synod: Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth

Lay Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mike de la Hunt (2020-2026), Kay Plumley (2020-2026), Alex Walker (2023)

Treasurer: Mike Ranson

Elected Members

Hilary Cullingford (2022-2025)

Donald Gaze (2023-2026)

Lana Liu (2023-2026)

Ian Ness (2022-2025)

Nigel Russell-Sewell (2023-2026)

Sue Vernon (2021-2024)

Margaret Vane (2022-2025)

Secretary: Janet Wilson (to July 2023), Nigel Russell-Sewell (since July 2023)

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Agenda

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Appointment of Secretary
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Close

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th April 2023
3. Consideration of the Electoral Roll
4. Approval of Sidespeople
5. Election of one representative to Deanery Synod
6. Election of two representatives to the Parochial Church Council
7. Consideration of reports:
 - 7.1. The proceedings of the PCC
 - 7.2. Churchwardens
 - 7.3. Fixtures and Fittings
 - 7.4. Proceedings of Deanery Synod
8. Treasurers' Report and Audited Accounts
9. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
10. Safeguarding Report and reaffirmation of the Safeguarding Policy
11. Reaffirmation of the Inclusive Church Statement
12. Consideration of Committee, Group, and other reports
 - 12.1. Children and Young People
 - 12.2. Eco Group and reaffirmation of the Eco Policy
 - 12.3. Faith and Nurture Group
 - 12.4. Anna Chaplain
 - 12.5. Community Hub Steering Group
 - 12.6. Bellringers
 - 12.7. Friends of St George's
13. Chair's remarks
 - 13.1. Clergy protection
 - 13.2. Charitable Giving Group Membership
14. Consideration of other matters of Parochial of general church interest
15. Close

Electoral Roll Report

The revision of the Electoral Roll was completed on 14th April 2024. The roll contains 206 names; 93 are resident in the parish and 113 are non-resident.

In April 2023 the roll contained 201 names; there have been 11 additions and 6 deletions since then.

The secretaries of the Diocesan and Deanery Synod have been duly informed of the current roll numbers.

Margaret Baron, Electoral Roll Officer

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List of Sidespeople

Jenny Click
Jon & Jean Davies
Mike & Linsley de la Hunt
Graham, Caroline & Andrew Field
Peter & Vera Friberg-Rodgers
Donald Gaze
Hazel Jones-Lee
Sue King
Jim Lowe
Peter Magnay
Judith Meikle
Sue Melbourne
Samuel Parker
Julian & Kay Plumley
Christine Rowland
Jackie & Ian Spencer
Chris & Sylvia Stenton
Brent Swinburne
Lorna & Paul Taylor
Leslie Wilkinson
Janet Wilson

Parochial Church Council Report

The past 12 months have been extremely busy for the PCC. At the start of the year, the PCC was extremely grateful to Graham Rutt who had taken on the role of warden support coordinator. Given that we had been reduced to a sole warden, it was extremely helpful to have a rota of Assistant Wardens drawn from the ranks of previous Churchwardens at St George's to assist at the back of church each Sunday. It was proving difficult to find a successor to Graham Hatt whose work as a lone warden was greatly appreciated. It was agreed that the generous Ann Biles legacy be used in part to fund improvements to the church sound system. The Treasurer expressed concerns at the inactive nature of our endowment fund (that had become known as the Garden of Remembrance fund) whose conditions of establishment remained mysterious, partly due to missing Parish records from the regional archive at Woodhorn. The income is available for use but in practice most of it reverts annually to general church expenditure, as there are few running expenses due to the team of volunteer gardeners, whose work is much appreciated.

In February, essential tree surgery works on the green were commissioned. The PCC welcomed the suggestion of the Treasurer to modify the Parish Share such that we did not continue the downward spiral of increasing deficit year on year as we had now only six weeks' operational expenses in reserve - whereas our reserves policy indicate we should have a three month buffer fund. It was agreed that the Parish Share should be reduced such that the continuing decline in reserves could be halted. The PCC welcomed the much needed uplift to income from the Catherine Cookson Trust, generated through rental properties, for expenses arising only within the Parish.

March saw completion of the tree works, repairs to the new noticeboard, and successful congregational and external launches of the St George's Community Hub appeal. The possibility of using car park space rental as an additional source of revenue was discussed following a suggestion by a parishioner. The annual accounts for 2022 were approved in April ahead of the Annual Meeting.

May, the first PCC after last year's Annual Meeting, saw the appointments of PCC officers: Mike Ranson as Treasurer and Nigel Russell-Sewell as Secretary. This was also the last meeting chaired by the Vicar, the Revd Canon Brian Hurst. The Archdeacon attended to outline expectations for the interregnum and the 'new' process for filling the vacancy, for which our benefice was to pilot.

July saw the election of Janet Wilson as Lay Vice-Chair of PCC, followed by a joint meeting with members of the PCC of St Hilda's. This enabled the two parishes to explore aspects of the interregnum, the timeline for appointment of a new Vicar and to start to put together the Parish Profile; a significant document to support the appointment process both for the Bishop and for applicants. The PCC agreed to meet monthly during the first phase of the interregnum to facilitate the preparation of all documentation for advertising the vacancy.

By the August meeting, the requirements for the Parish Profile and accompanying illustrated 'brochure' had been revised by the Bishop. The Area Dean (the Revd Dr Pauline Pearson) advised on the new requirements. The PCC was relieved that work already carried out had not been wasted!

The PCC received a legacy from the late Revd Frank Dexter in September: the cope made by Patricia Winskell along with £2,000 which was placed in the restricted Fabric Fund. The cope, received at a special service, has been used on festive occasions and will be used to vest the new Vicar at their installation. The PCC also received news from the Bishop that the Revd Canon Clare McLaren (Canon for Music and Liturgy at Newcastle Cathedral) would undertake a secondment as Interim Minister at St George's until Easter Day 2024, and that the Revd Ollie Dempsey would divide his time between Newcastle University Chaplaincy and St Hilda's. This significantly relieved the pressure on the Churchwardens who would otherwise be searching for clergy to take the services each week.

October saw the final approval of the paperwork for advertising the vacancy. A formal meeting ("Section 11") was held with the Archdeacon and St Hilda's to review these and agree the draft advert. The final review of all documentation was carried out in November in preparation for a formal meeting ("Section 12") with the Bishop of Berwick, which concluded the work of both St George's and St Hilda's PCCs on the vacancy. Following this meeting, only appointed "representatives" from each parish would deal with matters relating the application, selection, and interview processes.

With the vacancy being advertised, December saw business return to 'normal' with the PCC having reviewed the proposed Deanery Plan and the three aims St George's agreed to support:

- Aim 4: To reach out to children, young people, and families through building effective links with toddler groups and schools;
- Aim 5: To provide accessible and effective pastoral care to all who seek it in each of our communities through clear structures and communication and appropriate training; and
- Aim 7: To explore use of buildings by the wider community and for worship.

The PCC also received detail of the fundraising activity for the organ project.

Every PCC has 'standing items' on the agenda that must be considered at each meeting: Safeguarding; Finance; Estates Group; and St George's Community Hub 2025. Minutes are published on the St George's website following approval and can be read at: <https://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/about/#the-pcc>

Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell

Honorary Secretary, St George's Jesmond Parochial Church Council

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The Churchwardens' Report

Written in Interregnum – a reflection of 2023 in the life of St George's.

January

The year began with the launch of the *Patrons of Music* initiative – one of many music developments throughout the year organised by our Director of Music, Drew Cantrill-Fenwick. Music has enhanced our worship, extended our outreach, and bolstered our engagement with younger people throughout the year.

An evening meeting was convened to discuss the announcement on “Living in Love and Faith” from the College of Bishops concerning same-sex relationships (<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/press-releases/draft-prayers-thanksgiving-dedication-and-gods-blessing-same-sex-couples>). We reflected on the public apology – “We want to apologise for the ways in which the Church of England has treated LGBTQI+ people – both those who worship in our churches and those who do not. For the times we have rejected or excluded you, and those you love, we are deeply sorry. [...] As we have listened, we have been told time and time again how we have failed LGBTQI+ people. We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong. We affirm, publicly and unequivocally, that LGBTQI+ people are welcome and valued: we are all children of God.” The proposal of blessing of same sex relationships fell short of church marriage and seemed at variance with some of this sentiment. Many present felt frustration and disappointment. We were encouraged to share our perspectives with our new Bishop, Helen-Ann, ahead of the February General Synod February.

On lighter notes - an outing was arranged to celebrate Chinese New Year and the Children North East supporters organised by Liz Rhodes and Hazel Jones Lee completed their first box of donations for 2023.

February

Turning our thoughts outwards in anticipation of Lent we ran an appeal for the earthquake which had devastated substantial areas in Syria and Turkey. We held a collection for the East End Women's food bank. Fourat Duggan launched a drop-in session for those seeking sanctuary in the UK, housed in the New Northumbria hotel. Monica Ogden ran a bridge afternoon to supplement the funds raised for the Children's Society, in addition to the box collections. If you would like to have a box at home to collect loose change for the Children's Society throughout the year, please ask our Sacristan Monica – if you do not yet know Monica, please ask one of the wardens.

The highlight of early February was the church pantomime under the tireless guidance of Graham Rutt and Catherine Laidler – names too numerous to mention managed somehow to make sense of “Prince Froggie and the Evil Toad”. Linsley de la Hunt and her team delivered a constant supply of attractive refreshments over the two days of production.

The main Lent group considered the book *The Falling of Dusk*, in which Paul Dominiak explores how each of the seven last words from the Cross, confronting doubt, suspicion and

our own assumptions, anxieties and beliefs through a conventional Lenten form of meditation. A smaller group took up the opportunity to share a serialised format of the National Theatre at home broadcast production of *Angels in America* by Tony Kushner.

March

The Community Hub Congregation Launch took place on Sunday 12 March during parish coffee. Community Hub activities through 2023 form a separate section of this report. Father Ollie and our trainee Reader Izzy held the first of a series of small reflective services – “Sacred Space” at St Hilda’s. This quiet and reflective Eucharist offers particular welcome for members of the LGBTQI+ community, their family, and friends. Drew organised a spectacular screening of Cecil B DeMille’s *King of Kings*. On a more prosaic note, our website was updated and streamlined with improved links and greater clarity.

April

The month opened with Holy Week. The preacher this year was our own Father Ollie Dempsey, whose theme was “The Art of the Passion: Depicting the emotions and feelings of Holy Week through art”. Fr. Ollie led us through *Awkwardness - The Anointing of Christ*, Julia Stankova; and *Apprehension - Victory Over Death 2*, Colin McCahon; to *The Betrayal of Jesus*, as sculpted by Antoni Gaudi. On Maundy Thursday evening the theme was *Beloved - Jesus washes Peter’s Feet*, Ford Maddox Brown, moving through *Hope - The Crucifixion*, as portrayed by Leonard Evetts, culminating on Easter Day in Triumph – El Greco’s *Resurrection of Christ*. The Easter vigil and Easter Day services alone were attended by 188 people.

In the middle of the month we welcomed back Nathaniel Hayler as Deacon and preacher. The third weekend in April was memorable for a number of reasons. On Saturday, 22 April Bishop Helen-Ann was installed in the cathedral. It was an extremely wet day - as those of us who took a different path, following Margaret Vane and our treasurer Mike Ranson to the Dalemmain Marmalade Festival in the Lake District, remember only too well. Our Mike was the 2022 overall champion and we all agreed that the 2023 winner’s marmalade was not a patch on his. The following day, an announcement from the Bishop was read out at the end of Parish Eucharist that our Vicar Brian Hurst had been appointed as interim Priest-in-Charge of the Cheviot Benefice comprising the parishes of Doddington, Ilderton, Kirknewton and Wooler.

A farewell of a different nature was made the following Wednesday - Canon Frank Dexter’s funeral in Hexham Abbey. Frank, a friend to so many at St George’s over his many years as Vicar, very generously left a legacy to the church and also donated the magnificent Cope which had been embroidered for him by Patricia Winskell. We took receipt of this Cope from Jill and Helen Dexter in the autumn, in time for its use at our festival of dedication in October.

May

On 6 May the church bells were rung to mark the Coronation of HM King Charles III. Reader and Anna Chaplain Joan Grenfell organised a highly successful Big Friendly Coronation Gathering on St George’s green on the Monday bank holiday. As ever, this gathering offered

real engagement with the community of all ages. Elements of the afternoon reflected the King's wish that we seek out new opportunities for volunteering to mark his ascension to the throne.

We welcomed Helen Young back as a guest preacher and were delighted that Jennifer, Oscar, and Alex were all confirmed, in a service held at St Hilda's. The month ended with Drew's first "Kids' Organ Prom" - Peter and the Wolf.

June

Janet and Enid were nominated as Churchwardens at the close of the service on 11 June. All eligible members of the Electoral roll are encouraged seriously to consider whether this is an opportunity to which they might be called over the next couple of years.

The summer fête - postponed due to the Coronation weekend - was a great success: sunny, sociable, and with something for everyone. Thanks to the massive planning and graft of Tom Furness and the stall stalwarts, we raised over £5000. More locally, Linsley de la Hunt, chair of governors at Christ the King Church of England primary school, launched a very successful appeal to support pupils on a three day rural break – an opportunity to experience the countryside that many children from Shieldfield would not otherwise have been able to enjoy. An appeal was launched for Christian Aid, supporting victims of the flood in Ukraine.

We said a sad farewell to Tiger Lee after 18 months as organ scholar, as he left to take up a position as Director of Music at St Chad's College Durham. Evensong on 18 June was Canon Brian's final service. This was a low-key departure at his own request. We attended the Archdeacon Deacons' Visitation at the cathedral alongside our fellow wardens from St Hilda's, Lesley, and Phil.

July

At the beginning of July some of us made the trip to Wooler to witness Brian's installation by Bishop Helen-Ann. There was a good turnout, the warmest of welcomes to Brian and Mo, not to mention some spectacular catering!

Meanwhile, back at the ranch lightning struck. Our lightning conductor averted structural damage but the electrics, sound system, livestream and hearing loop were all casualties. Thankfully the restoration costs were mostly covered by our insurance.

At the end of the month we had the opportunity to say a formal farewell and heartfelt thanks to Graham Hatt for his years of service as warden, a tenure that had seen him and Louise grapple with the unique challenges of the Covid pandemic and which culminated in a year as solo warden. His smile, enthusiasm and patience remain a constant legacy for his successors. We are also grateful for the ongoing services of Shaun – Hon. Assistant Warden.

August

August is typically a somewhat low-key month in our church calendar, but in 2023 it was transformed by the appearance of the BBC Songs of Praise team. Those with the longest memories of St George's reckon it is our third appearance on this program. The format has changed however, such that an episode is not centred on one church but rather on a theme. The crew were delightful to deal with and made light of the considerable on-site logistics leading up to the evening of Monday 21st August when the recording took place. The pantechnicons began to arrive the previous morning and it was a tight squeeze to fit in the Baptism of William Eyre before they took over the site completely. Special thanks to Charlotte Hindle, the Songs of Praise producer, for eagerly volunteering herself to assist with setting up refreshments on the green so that all could go smoothly for the Eyre and Mattison families.

Some of the initial outputs of the evening's recording have already been screened - 520 people thronging our pews to a backdrop of flowers masterminded by Vera. Particular thanks to Drew for his tireless conducting, and Graham Rutt and his expert team of stewards and safety officers.

September

In September the Children North East team gratefully received over 400 uniform items. The ringers tolled the tenor bell in memory of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, RIP. The 8th and 9th September were our Heritage Open Days when Barbara Peacock gave her very popular guided tours of the church and surroundings. Revd Dr Roy Large entertained visitors with his periodic organ recitals and refreshments were available throughout - a particular thanks to Hilary Pitkethly who supports a huge range of hospitality events through the year.

On 10 September we welcomed Jesmond Methodist Church to hold their 11am worship at St George's, during the 6 week refurbishment of their entrance and of kitchen facilities. On the 24th we held our Harvest Festival service in the morning with a collection in aid of the People's Kitchen. In the afternoon Reader Malcolm Toft organised the Battle of Britain Remembrance Service. Bryan Vernon nobly ran the Great North Run raising over £600 for Christian Aid. The Loose Ladies and the church Walking Group resumed their activities following the summer break.

At the end of the month we were delighted to welcome Canon Clare MacLaren on secondment from her position as Canon precentor at St Nicholas Cathedral, for a period of six months as Interim Minister until Easter Day 2024. At the same time, Father Ollie moved his base across the Benefice to be principally engaged in activities at St Hilda's and in liaison with the university chaplaincy services.

Safeguarding is an important issue in St George's and indeed across the diocese. In September Janet went to Morpeth for warden induction on a number of topics including safeguarding. At the end of November Enid attended the launch at the cathedral of a

Diocesan Safeguarding report commissioned from Sunderland University, which highlighted areas for improvement of engagement and delivery by those in positions of responsibility.

October

The month opened in a joint service with JMC with Canon Clare presiding and JMC's Revd. Alison Wilkinson as our preacher. Ollie invited Bishop Helen-Ann to preach at the Choral Evensong on Sunday, 15 October our dedication festival. It made a very special evening for all present and for those able to watch on the livestream.

The livestream team under Jackie Spencer have shown remarkable agility as various different systems and modifications have been undertaken for a variety of reasons throughout the year. Although only a small number of people watch our transmission live, some of the YouTube content has almost hundred views. This does not mean that 100 people watch the whole service but it does offer those who are not members of the congregation a valuable opportunity to 'sample' our services.

JMC's works were completed on time and after their last use of our premises on 22 October we were presented with a magnificent basket of exceptional biscuits to share at our parish coffee.

The congregation were invited to contribute to a poll of characteristics most sought after in a new vicar as part of the ongoing vacancy and discernment process ahead of the Archdeacon's Section 11 and Bishop's Section 12 meetings– see PCC report for more details.

November

The Sung Eucharist on All Souls Day was enriched by music from Fauré's Requiem and poignant solo singing by chorister Eleanor. The following week a more light-hearted event – Ready Set Sing! comprising an open rehearsal of Junior choir, a short act of worship and organ tours followed by pizza proved popular with younger voices.

It was announced that The Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, and Bishop Helen-Ann were to lead the next phase of the process of introducing Prayers of Love and Faith.

On Remembrance Sunday Shaun and Jack led us in the moving Kohima Exhortation. An appeal was launched for Christmas gifts for the West End Refugee Service. Some were able to join JMC on their community meal and grand opening of their new facilities.

December

The Christmas Market on 2 December raised around £4500. We had many very popular worship events spearheaded by Canon Clare throughout the month. Our mission statistics show that 359 people attended special Advent services and 1500 came to events organised for the community.

The community events included the popular annual service of lighting St George's Christmas tree. 2023 was a bit different as the Watson Family Trust sponsored not only St George's Green floodlighting and Christmas tree, but also the illumination of Acorn Road with a series of attractive Christmas trees. Members of the Northern Counties school braved horrendous wind and rain to switch on the lights in Acorn Road before the over 150 people processed to St George's. Everyone present was charmed by the wonder of the Percy Hedley signing choir. We were back out in Jesmond again on Saturday, December 16, for a Living Nativity procession around various local sites, complete of course with Honey the Donkey. Gradually the numbers grew - attracted by the carol singing, the narration, and of course Honey.

The following day, the congregation at Parish Eucharist applauded warmly when Canon Clare concluded Parish Eucharist in offering prayers and blessing for a same-sex couple, becoming one of the first priests across the Church of England so to do.

Our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services welcomed 1118. In 2023 there were 14 baptisms and eight weddings. We give thanks for this growth, among the many good things of the past year. We pray that we may be found by a new vicar who will lead us joyously from strength to strength as the 2020s unfold.

Janet Wilson and Enid Pearson, Churchwardens

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Fixtures & Fittings and further Reflection

It has been an eventful year, marked by departures, welcomes and new beginnings. Such an interim period in the life of our church might be regarded as challenging and unsettling. However it gives us the opportunity to question what we do, our community outreach and how things might be improved. As Rowan Williams puts it, so eloquently and succinctly:

"If there is one thing I long for above all else, it's that the years to come may see Christianity in this country able again to recapture the imagination of our culture, to draw the strongest energies of our thinking and feeling into the exploration of what our creeds put before us."

The rich fabric of St George's Church was augmented, during the course of the year by the following items:

- Repair of the large communion jug, facilitated by Barbara Peacock;
- Donation of a votive candle stand, by Mr David Cheeseman, in memory of his late wife, Jean;
- Festal cope, made and embroidered by Mrs Patricia Winskell, donated by Mrs Jill Dexter, in memory of Frank Dexter;
- New community noticeboard on the green, facilitated and installed by Graham Hatt and a team of volunteers;

- New sound system, projector, and screen, facilitated by Janet Wilson;
- Plans in progress for new lectern steps, designed by Ian Ness, to be financed by a recent legacy;

These items have been/will be added to the inventory and logbook, with associated articles from the Lance, as advised by the Area Dean, Reverend Pauline Pearson, at the triennial parish inspection on 27/10/23. Pauline also drew our attention to the disparity between electronic and written data, which needs correction, ideally before the quinquennial architectural inspection in September 2024. If you have the necessary skills and time for this piece of work, and would be willing to assist, please let us know.

Although the church fabric is in good shape, the gradual, long term decline in weekly attendance and increased average age, reflects the national secular trend. This means a diminution in the number of volunteers, who undertake a multitude of tasks associated with the outreach and functions of St George's. To those who help in so many ways, we say a big vote of thanks to you all. If you are new to the church or have not yet had the opportunity to volunteer your help, please speak to one of us and give an indication of how you might be able to assist the work of the church. This appeal replaces a Time and Talents campaign this year.

As part of our outreach, we have been glad to welcome members of the Community Police force, who regularly visit the Friday Café, gardening group, and have even been spotted at one of our services. They offer useful advice. Security on the site has presented some issues recently: items of petty theft from the church in November 2023 and recently, attempted theft from a contractors' van, parked outside the hall, which was only prevented by the sharp eye of a passing member of the public. The police have raised with us the possibility that we should consider having CCTV in place, for example, outside the hall main entrance. This might be regarded as an intrusion on privacy and therefore should be a matter of debate for the whole congregation. Further, a small number of email scams, purporting to be from members of the clergy, have occurred recently. Please be vigilant and check that all emails from St George's are genuine.

In spite of many changes, one constancy is our parish secretary, Jonathan. He fulfils all his duties and much more, with secretarial skill and utmost diplomacy, alongside continual interruptions in the office. Some of us even forgive his football team allegiance!

Thanks to you all for your support of the life and work of St George's during the past year. All reasonable suggestions for change will be considered!

Enid Pearson, Churchwarden

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Deanery Synod Report

This has been an active year for the Central Newcastle Deanery Synod, under the leadership of Rev. Pauline Pearson, Area Dean. She will be much missed, as she retires in March 2024.

The St. George's Synod representatives this year were:

Elected reps: Mike de la Hunt, Kay Plumley, Alex Walker (resigned end 2023)

Ex officio: Brain Hurst (to June 2023), Ollie Dempsey (to September 2023), Izzy McDonald Booth (as Lay Chair of the Diocesan Synod), Clare MacLaren (since September 2023).

The focus of the work this year has been in two areas:

Deanery Development Plan

The Deanery Development Plan is now in place. A team, including the Rev. Ollie Dempsey, pulled it together over many months. The process included several Deanery Synod meetings to review and give input to it. The plan aims to share people, time and resources across the churches and parishes in the Deanery, including clergy, lay leaders and retired clergy. Five focus areas have been agreed:

1. Leadership & Governance
2. Mission & Pastoral Care
3. Buildings fit for purpose
4. Development of Lay Ministry
5. Generous Giving

There was a lot of discussion about the challenges we face eliminating fossil fuels and achieving carbon net zero, with the Environment running as a thread through all five of these focus areas.

The Deanery Development Plan (copy available from any of your Deanery Synod reps) has been shared with St. George's PCC, who have identified three aims which we might pursue:

1. To reach out to children, young people, and families through building effective links with toddler groups and schools.

There has been a lot of discussion at Deanery Synod about how parishes might collaborate more closely, share resources/expertise and also a more integrated approach to youth work.

2. To provide accessible and effective pastoral care to all who seek it in each of our communities, through clear structures, communication, and appropriate training.

E.g. Offer friendly, accessible activities and services for groups not used to attending church, or who might feel excluded.

3. To explore use of buildings by the wider community and for worship.

E.g. looking at what percentage of time and space is let, has letting fee been reviewed recently, how accessible are buildings? And of course, all of the Community Hub work.

Parish Share

Parish Share was a topic at most of the Deanery Synod meetings. As you know, much of Parish Share is spent on clergy stipends and clergy housing, as well as training across the whole of our Diocese. Wealthier parishes voluntarily support ministry in areas which cannot afford to pay for clergy. Parish Share does not pay for the Bishop, although it does pay for central support staff in areas like Safeguarding and Children & Youth work. All parishes were urged to help and support ministry and mission in our Diocese, including sharing the funding of the work.

St. George's had separate meetings between the Archdeacon, Area Dean, Deanery Finance Officer, our Treasurer and our Deanery Synod reps, as we needed to reduce our Parish Share contribution in 2023 to get back onto a sound financial footing, increase our reserves and invest in our parish.

We continue to work together and support one another in the Central Deanery in a positive and constructive way.

Mike de la Hunt, Clare MacLaren, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Kay Plumley

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Safeguarding Report

I am glad to report there is nothing to report; no major incidents to report this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their co-operation in being Police checked and participating in training, as well as being alert to possible incidents. I am sure everyone is aware of the importance of keeping everyone safe at St Georges.

Dr Sue Vernon, Parish Safeguarding Officer

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THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S JESMOND
SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 9th April 2024

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually
- This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Meeting

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Dr Sue Vernon (suejvernon@icloud.com) as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent vacancy

Churchwardens James Wilson Emd Pearson

Date 9/4/24

This policy is to be reviewed annually and re-affirmed at the APCM

Inclusive Church Statement

“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**.

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement/>

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Children and Young People Report

Background: What the PCC has chartered the CYP to do/ team members this year?

The purpose of the CYP is to ‘*Help to deliver the Church Vision for children & young people, especially to meet their spiritual & worshipping needs*’. Team members throughout the year were Alison, Kay and Sarah, with Sue Vernon attending occasionally in an advisory capacity as Safeguarding Officer. Brian Hurst, Ollie, Lucy, and Lorna resigned during the year, with much gratitude for their valued contributions to the work over the years. Alex Walker, Lana Liu, and Canon Clare joined the team during the year.

Highlights

Discerning the way forward for St. George’s ministry with children and Young People

After Emily, our Family & Youth Leader, left in the spring of 2023, we ran a process to take stock of where we were, what our focus areas needed to be, and whether we might need to employ someone again. We were helped by two members of the Diocesan team, Tara Russell (Children & Youth Team Leader) and Susan White (Youth Advisor). Questionnaires went out to the congregation, Smarties leaders, as well as the children and young people. The resulting input was considered by the CYP team, facilitated by Tara and Susan. The most important outcomes were the decision to focus on more involvement of our children & young people in all aspects of our work and worship, without recruiting a new employee, as well as to continue the ‘Being With’ and student work, led by Ollie.

All Age Worship

In the first of what we hope will be a once-a-term event, an all-age worship service was held on November 26th, celebrating the feast of Christ the King. While the leaders of Smarties and

the Junior Choir were involved in the preparations, it was not intended to be a children's service, but to have people of all ages across the congregation collaborate in our worship. The teamwork during the sermon reflected the strong connections between different age groups in our congregation. While a few people felt that the service catered too much to a younger audience, the response from the majority was overwhelmingly positive. The highlight of the day was the involvement of the Junior choir and Smarties, infusing our worship with youthful energy.

Business as Usual, punctuated with Special Events

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who run our regular activities with children and young people. Especially to Christine's team running Little Saints, the volunteers helping Drew with the Junior Choir, and all of the people involved in Smarties.

Events with outreach to children & young people in the community this year included the Coronation BFG on May 8th – there was an Eco stall where the Eco group offered bug hotel building, seed bomb making, and bird box assembly. The ladies from the URC ran children's activities. Joan organised a face painter. No year would be complete without the Summer Fete on June 17th.

The Advent and Christmas season was particularly busy, with the Christmas Market, including many well received activities for children in the Mitchell room; the Living Nativity, featuring Holly the Donkey and with participation from many of the shops in the area; and the Christingle Service with assembly of the Christingles by the children, immediately before the service.

Housekeeping & Maintenance

This year it was rat ingress which required work on the children's corner in church – once the floor had been repaired and the rat entry stopped, replacement of the carpets and disinfection of the toys. Many thanks to the several people involved in the clean-up and purchase of replacement items!

We would like your practical help – it doesn't need to be a huge time commitment!

We can use your help and skills in all sorts of ways: Getting materials together for a craft activity; running an activity during a church event; making Christingles; encouraging children and young people to join our Junior Choir or Bell Ringers; joining the Smarties rota. Do contact us!

Kay Plumley, on behalf of the CYP

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Eco Group Report

Having previously achieved “Bronze” level in the Eco Award scheme we have, during the past year, carried out further work to enhance our environmental credentials. As a result we have elevated our status to “Silver” level, a significant achievement. This opens up the possibility of applying for further grants in our objective to achieve “Net Zero” carbon emissions.

Part of the work undertaken to gain “Silver” level included an estate management plan detailing gardening practices and how we give due recognition to encouraging biodiversity.

Regarding our aim to achieve Net Zero, a review of the energy usage in the church was undertaken by ESOS, an expert consultant specialising in ecclesiastical buildings. The cost of the work was covered by our energy supplier under the Parish Buying scheme. The most important recommendations were that we heat the people rather than the whole building, and only for a period commensurate with its duration of occupancy. Discussion with the specialist from the DAC also supports this view. A scheme has now been outlined and initial budgetary costing arrived at. A presentation has been made to the PCC on the scheme and a similar presentation was made on 25th February to interested members of the to the congregation. We have been made aware of grants that are being made available to facilitate decarbonisation, it is the intention to apply for these wherever we can, including any trials or tests.

We continue to monitor energy consumption for both the hall and church.

John Clark, on behalf of the Eco Group

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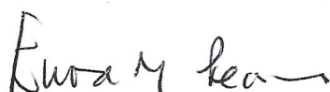
Environmental Policy

St. George's Church accepts responsibility for its effects on the environment and is committed to reduce them. As your local Church of England (Anglican) church, one of our Five Marks of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The key points of our strategy to achieve this are:

- a. Frequently emphasise God's love for Creation and our stewardship of nature, through our worship and teaching.
- b. Understand and minimise the impact of our church activities, land and buildings on the environment, especially on the climate and biodiversity.
- c. Implement an awareness program for our congregation, volunteers and staff to enlist their support in improving the church's impact on the environment.
- d. Measure our carbon footprint and set targets for ongoing improvement which achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Understand what would be required to reach this target and draw up an economically sensible action plan to achieve it.
- e. Use future plans to reduce our environmental impact.
- f. Engage with other churches, the Diocese of Newcastle, the Church of England and other local and national partners to understand and follow best environmental practice & guidance in the context of listed church buildings, to secure their help and partnership to get the work done and to hold the national Church to account.
- g. Collaborate with people and groups from our local community on environmental initiatives.
- h. Establish *and maintain* an Eco Group, chartered by the Parochial Church Council to bring environmental issues and concerns forward to them on a regular basis; with agreed membership, accountability and resources.
- i. Follow the Eco Church programme, aiming to achieve Gold certification by 2030
- j. Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

Signed:



Dated: April 2024

9/4/24

Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Review: This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Faith and Nurture Report

The stated purpose of the Faith and Nurture Group is to set the strategic direction for St George's chosen priority of 'Questioning, Nurturing Faith'. Our aim has been to help our church to grow both numerically and spiritually.

The Group, led by Joan, has worked to provide input into activities including Bible Study Groups, Lent Courses, and the Advent programme. We also devoted considerable time and energy to running courses on the Pastoral Principles and Living in Love and Faith. For Living in Love and Faith, we extended our course and discussions to all within and beyond the congregation of St George's. We contributed to the consultation process and feedback as far as we could, as individuals as well as a group. We have been disappointed at the limited outcomes of this extensive consultation but are mindful of those for whom even that has been felt to be too much.

Regular faith-based activity is well established at St George's and there has been little response to fresh initiatives and proposals. Membership of the F&N Group has dwindled and we do need to reconsider our remit. We would welcome new members and suggestions how we might best enhance the spiritual life of our community.

No further meetings of the Group have been scheduled but we look forward to discussion with our new incumbent, when appointed and established, as to how we proceed.

Michael de la Hunt and Joan Grenfell

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Anna Chaplain Report

The Ministry goes on...

When I come to write my Anna Chaplain Report I feel as if I am writing much the same each year... because I do much the same thing each year.

This past year then, has consisted of Home Communion being taken on a weekly basis to Cestria House and Craghall Residential Care homes. This is something I value and I know it is appreciated by the residents and staff of the Care Homes. All the major festivals are marked, as well as specific events as they arise: the death of the Queen and the Coronation.

Inevitably the health of residents deteriorates as the days/ years pass. so the numbers at the services can vary from 16 attending to a more intimate service with just 2 people. Whether it is 16 or just 2, the service is offered.

During the year I have been asked to sit with a resident coming to the end of their life, offering prayers or simply being there holding a hand. This request can come unannounced, so I am grateful for the memory I have of certain prayers or bible verses!

It was particularly touching to sit with Ethel, a very faithful participant in our weekly worship at Craghall. She knew the scriptures so I tried to quietly share what I could recall. I held her hand and was with her. I was told that she died a few hours into the next day. I will miss her.

Recently, I was asked to conduct the funeral of Valerie, a resident of Cestria House. I had known Valerie for some time as had many people in Jesmond, especially at the library where she had been a volunteer, and in the Hardware Shop where she was a frequent and welcome shopper.

Her funeral was attended entirely by friends and was, if there is such a thing, a very pleasant funeral... gentle and meaningful. Afterwards I joined others at Cestria House where a small wake had been arranged.

I am delighted to say that I have been asked to give the Wednesday evening talk at Jesmond library in April so that people can learn a little more about the ministry of an Anna Chaplain. It is good to have the opportunity to spread the word!

I continue to support care staff as I am able and as they share with me some of the family concerns they are carrying as they come to work each day. In some cases these are very considerable. I cannot speak highly enough of them, as watching them at work, it would not be in any way apparent that they were carrying any concerns at all.

I continue to share my experiences when I join the national online training course as a guest Chaplain and regard this as an important extension to my ministry.

I hope to be able to continue offering this ministry, in the name of St. George's, for some time to come.

Joan Grenfell, Anna Chaplain

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Community Hub Steering Group Report

At the start of 2023 the Community Hub Steering Group and subgroups began to coalesce ahead of launch events for both the congregation and to the wider community. There was some disappointment that larger numbers of individuals did not come forward to join these groups, tempered with understanding that many experienced “project fatigue” due to the very long gestation of the proposals. For the same reason, timely progress was essential in order not to lose the PCC's substantial prior investment in hard won permissions to develop

the North-West corner of the church and to refurbish the hall. The Community Hub Steering Group was very grateful to Chris Clarke, a major leader of the Jesmond Community Festival and Treasurer of the Jesmond Community Forum, who kindly agreed to join us, despite his many other commitments.

Useful discussion was generated by both the internal launch and the public launch on 25th March 2023. Initial fundraising events included a lecture by David Saunders on the Russian writer Evgenii Zamiatin, whose novella *The Islanders* is set locally; a trip to the Dalemmain marmalade festival in the Lake District; and a popular Wine Tasting event in May. A small number of parishioners took up the opportunity of using the website “Give As You Live Online” as a portal for our online purchases. £290 has been raised by this means at the time of writing. See <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>.

Under Kay Plumley’s leadership, the Publicity Group generated banners for display in the church hall and an impressive brochure, followed by a leaflet suitable for mass distribution and circulation. Kay also represented the Community Hub at the Summer Fête in mid-June, and we were grateful to some of our younger church members, notably Stephen Dawes and Jennifer Mills, for promoting three bespoke badged “Community Hub beers” from Wylam Brewery. A Hub appeal display, banner, and table with a freestanding contactless payment were set up at the back of church. The final fundraising event of the year was a lecture on Dickens in Newcastle given in early December by Dr Chris Goulding.

The Steering Group gained support by the creation of the Projects sub-group in March last year. They act as the link between the appointed construction consultancy team and the Main Steering Group.

St George’s was visited by the manager of the James Knott trust to further explore our application for initial funding. Over the summer meetings were also held with Ian Watson of the Watson family Trust who so generously funds the Christmas tree and church floodlighting, to seek his views and guidance on our progress.

We were delighted that Sir Alan Craft, who lives locally for some of the year, and who has been extremely successful in fundraising for medical charities, accepted our invitation to become Patron of the St George’s Community Hub project.

In response to suggestions by Chris Clarke, we are making more effort to engage with others within the community whose needs we hope ultimately to serve. This engagement includes forging stronger ties with the Jesmond community forum and Jesmond Library.

During autumn and winter, the extension to the church had gone through the full development and detailing of the drawings and specification to facilitate the ability to seek formal tender bids from a select list of proposed Contractors. The PCC approved this process, required to allow our professional fundraising consultant to progress with applications to those medium and large sized trusts who require accurate costings.

The end date of the planning permission for commencement of works for the Hall was mid-February 2024. Therefore, after options review, the PCC approved funding the replacement of the rooflights in the main hall. Architectural drawings thereof were commissioned for submission to the Council Planning Department.

Towards the end of the year we were delighted to be awarded £30,000 to be delivered in three annual £10,000 sources by the James Knott trust. By year end, the running total for the appeal was £78,487, including not only the James Knott award but also £1000 from the Hedley Denton Trust, £5000 from the Sabina Sutherland Trust and £15,000 from Clerical and General.

Together with funds already expended by the PCC and kindly donated by the Friends of St George's, the fundraising total at year end stood at £156,100. This represents 39% of the quantum required to deliver the much-needed additional facilities to the main body of the church.

The Community Hub members have continued to work hard throughout the year in progressing the scheme to finally turn it into a positive reality. They in turn thank all who have so very generously donated to support the work of St George's community outreach endeavour and continue to support our fundraising events in so many ways.

Janet A Wilson and Derek Nicholson, on behalf of the Hub Steering Group

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Bellringers Report

Whereas we are back to pre-lockdown ringing standards, we have not been able to replace the teenagers that we had learning the art in early 2000. This has been a priority for us for some time but without success. However we have recruited a couple of adults.

There has occasionally been a shortage of capable ringers to deliver ringing for service in the past but recently we have usually had all 8 bells ringing for service and on a practice night. The enthusiasm of our ringers and their help to keep the bells ringing when required, such as for weddings as well as Sunday services, has been tremendous. On Sunday morning, after ringing at St George's, a group of ringers help out with ringing for service at St James and St Basil in Fenham where numbers are short.

Risk assessments are in place and sanitiser is in appropriate locations as a precaution when we change bells at the start of ringing.

In May we rang to open the Jesmond Festival and anticipate doing so again this year. Chris Clark, Jesmond Festival organiser, kindly said that, as bellringers, we are an asset to the

community. Under the slogan Ring for the King, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers gave national guidance on ringing for the coronation, and we duly fell in line.

Regarding bell maintenance, the help of Tom, Stuart (Gosforth ringer), John and Steve, has lightened the responsibility of repairing stays. A stay is one of the safety devices which prevents an accident but can crack and break if the bell is overpulled when ringing, a frequent occurrence with learners. We needed a new rope which was delivered last April, and we are considering ordering new muffles to replace our decades old set. These muffles are used when we are asked to ring for funerals and on Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you to all of the congregation who listen for our bells and often comment on whether the ringing was good or bad on a particular Sunday.

Lorna Taylor (Tower Secretary) and Geoff White (Tower Captain)

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Friends of St George's Report

As ever we have had a busy year, starting with the ever popular Sophie, Simon, and Jenny's challenging Quiz - always a good way to start the year. I am always delighted to report on how popular it is, bringing in large numbers of competitive participators from both the community and the congregation, fortified with lashings of pies and peas (Enid Blyton would have added ginger beer but we tend surprisingly enough to partake of vino). I would stress that everyone is welcome - you don't have to join the Friends to attend, but it is obviously a sensible and clever move to make!

In June we had our annual FOSG Dinner, a friendly and chatty evening, starting with fizz on the Green in warm sunshine, then a delicious meal in excellent company. Later in June we had the pleasure of an evening with Newcastle Concert Band, always a delight, and, being a regular event, the chance to meet up with old friends during usually extended interval drinks.

September brought the Heritage Open Days, which always gives us the chance to encourage visitors to our magnificent Grade 1 listed building, and to get new members to join. In October we were indeed fortunate to have a talk from Janet Wilson on William Wilde, which attracted a goodly audience. Janet had done an amazing amount of research, including a trip to Ireland. Thank you, Janet, for all your hard work and meticulous research.

A stall at the Christmas Market in early December enabled us to sell some of our excellent merchandise and to gain some new members. The year finished with The Singers' Christmas Concert, which always sets off the Christmas Season so beautifully - Brent's delicious mulled wine adds another dimension to the evening! We look forward to another rich programme in 2024.

Barbara Peacock, Chair of the Friends

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th April 2023

The Parish Church of St. George, Jesmond



Annual Meeting of Parishioners
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 30th April 2023 in the Church Hall.

Apologies had been received from Mike Oswald, Jackie and Ian Spencer; Alison Mattinson, Sue Vernon; Revd. Roy Large; David Cullingford. 55 attendee signatures were recorded.

	Annual Meeting of Parishioners
1.1	Appointment of Secretary Janet Wilson was approved as secretary.
1.2	Election of Churchwardens No nominations had been received. The Archdeacon will be encouraged to chair a special meeting of parishioners in 4-6 weeks offering an opportunity to nominate one or two churchwardens (CWs). Not everyone seems aware that we have a well-defined CW job description. This will be recirculated and hard copies will be placed at the back of church. The Chair expressed the view we have become focused on the CW job spec, and the task. We have rather lost sight of the fact that the CW position is an ancient role. It is separate from all the things that the St George's congregation have 'dumped' onto and come to expect from the Warden. Graham has dealt well with some of these extraneous demands, but also generously volunteered to continue for a further year alongside a newly appointed warden if such a person steps forward. The core issue for all to consider is: Who is God calling in this place to be foremost among the laity? Q raised as to whether we could have four CWs. CW Graham Hatt responded in principle four wardens would be wonderful. Would need clarity on the legal responsibilities. However, we already have four assistant wardens. Four CWs might be excessive. PCC will revisit Graham Rutt's CW paper. If no intervening election ensues, Graham Hatt will demit the CW post at the end of July.
	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	The Chairman, Revd. Canon Brian Hurst opened the meeting.
2.1	Consideration of Electoral Roll The Roll updated on 16 April 2023 contains 201 names, an increase of four; 87 are resident in the parish. The electoral roll officer, Margaret Baron, was thanked for her work.
2.2	Approval of Sidespersons The list circulated was approved – noting that Andrew Swai has sadly moved house away to a different Parish.

2.3	Election of representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod Nominations received from Kay Plumley; Mike de la Hunt and Alex Walker were approved.
2.4	Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC Nominations received from Nigel Russell-Sewell; Lana Liu and Donald Gaze were approved
2.5	Receiving Annual Reports 1. PCC Report The report on the activities of the PCC over the last year was received. The list of supported charities was announced - see Appendix page 5. 2. Churchwarden's Report and Report on Fixtures and Fittings The meeting received the Churchwarden's Reports. 3. Deanery Synod Report The meeting received the report of the Deanery Synod, which comprised representatives of the laity forming a link with the clergy. Q raised on the outcomes or decisions of matters discussed. Kay Plumley responded. She explained it was not easy to answer as it is not a forum where many decisions are made – except that a sign up to Net Zero was agreed. There is also input to a Deanery Development group. Clergy also attend Deanery Synod and Father Ollie Dempsey sits on said Group. Net Zero definition was briefly discussed – no emission of CO2 contributing to global warming; offset of CO2 emitted by tree planting etc. Izzy McDonald Booth, Kay Plumley and Mike Delahunt were thanked for their work.
2.6	Annual Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts The Treasurer, Mike L Ranson, Chartered Accountant, highlighted key points: Stephenson Coates were acknowledged - Thanks where conveyed to John Oswald's daughter for attending the meeting on behalf of the company. St George's has been struggling financially for a time, and incurred deficits several years running. This is not sustainable. We have reduced our largest expenditure, Parish Share, to £100,000K for year just ended. However this proved to be an insufficient reduction as we incurred another shortfall of £6000 on operational activities. A generous Legacy received last year offsets that deficit on paper. However, the PCC wishes to hold the legacy money to be available for a specific future identified expenditure. The Treasurer had had a useful meeting with Diocese and Deanery representatives and it was agreed that we will continue to reduce the Parish Share to a level that we can afford. The important thing is that we return to level of a surplus generation as this is vital for any charity or organization, in order for it to invest in the future. To help us meet our shortfall in day-to-day operational expenditure, we are receiving a very generous donation from the Catherine Cookson Trust – whose Trustees are rightly insistent that any expenditure of this donation is within the Parish. The Charity Commission encourages we have a reserves policy and the Treasurer is working towards this goal. In response to Q- parishioners were reassured that we are not presently borrowing money. An offer to support planting in the Garden of Remembrance (GoR) was made from the floor. The Treasurer reminded the meeting that there is a large endowment fund set up for the GoR. Currently, the PCC wishes to use its capital to enhance the GoR – for example by building a feature boundary wall which is not presently allowed. The Charities Commission has been approached by the Treasurer to this end but with no success. He will try again as it is quite a large sum. The Chair reminded the meeting that the income from the said fund is of course available to support day-to-day planting activities such as those referred to in the original question.

	Q concerned outstanding unspent funds for a Youth Worker. Kay Plumley updated the meeting - £15000 is available and if a new youth worker is appointed in July a further £15000 will be forthcoming The Treasurer was thanked by the vicar for his financial achievements and his input to other matters throughout the past year. Thanks were also extended to Rachel Oswald for attending the APCM, to John Oswald and Stephenson Coates.
2.7	Appointment of Independent Examiner John Oswald of Stephenson Coates was proposed by the Treasurer to continue in the position of Independent Examiner which met with unanimous approval
2.8	Safeguarding report and Affirmation of Safeguarding Policy, Thanks were expressed to the Parish Safeguarding Officer Sue Vernon for her huge support to the Vicar and Churchwarden over the past year. The meeting received a brief report and reaffirmed the Safeguarding policy. Already approved by the PCC.
2.9	Reaffirmation of Inclusive Church statement The meeting was delighted to reaffirm their commitment to the inclusive Church statement, which is a living statement for us as a Parish.
2.10	Committee and group reports were considered: 1. Children and Young People The Children and Young People Committee Work is under review – those present were asked to complete the questionnaire distributed this morning at Parish Communion to inform this work 2. ECO group / Environmental policy Fuel costs presented a considerable challenge in the past year. The church saved a third of gas cost for the hall through the new boiler and insulation. A recent change in supplier has reduced the cost of the hall electricity supply by 50%. New members were most welcome to join the group. The meeting reaffirmed the adoption of the Environmental Policy. 3. Faith and Nurture Joan Grenfell noted that this activity comprised a huge cradle to grave responsibility – and would welcome one or two more members to input. The Northern Saints Pilgrimage to Holy Island was delightful, one of the first things Father Ollie Dempsey organised when he arrived. 4. Anna Chaplain Joan Grenfell was thanked for her ministry as part of the clergy team. The Vicar observed that our Anna Chaplain is a great exemplar of living in love and faith within the community and she was thanked for raising the profile of St George's throughout the neighbourhood. 5. Community Hub Steering Group Since Derek Nicholson submitted his report, the Steering Group was delighted to welcome Chris Clarke, well known for his tireless work in the community. Also the PCC had extended the term of tenure of Paul Baird as our Fundraising consultant. In addition to Derek, project group lead, other members of the steering group were the Vicar; Treasurer; Head of publicity group Kay Plumley, the Director of Music, fundraising lead Janet Wilson. More members on the community hub groups would be most welcome as there is a great deal of work to undertake. We have undertaken successful Parish and Community Launches. At present, the Boundary wall is a priority. Tennis club is imminently starting work on the contiguous fence. 6. Music Thanks were extended to Drew firstly, in appreciation for the personal skills of his contribution to performance. Also for his massive range of varied activities undertaken in 2022 -Choir; Junior

	Choir; Organ Restoration Project funding, including recitals and silent movie screenings with musical accompaniment. Attention was drawn to the 2023 summer series of weekly Friday organ recitals starting on 5 May at 13: 00, running through to Friday, 21 July. Also to joint musical Vintage afternoon teas at Jesmond United Reformed Church on Mondays at 1500 between 22nd of May and 3rd July in aid of the organ funds of both St George's and JURC. Drew had set up an eBay account for sheet music sales 7. Bellringers Thanks were extended to Geoff White and Lorna Taylor for their ongoing commitment – not just every Sunday but also on special occasions such as this week's Coronation when visitors to the green would be offered the opportunity to enter the tower and try their hand at ringing one of the bells 8. Friends of St George's Barbara Peacock observed that quite a number of those present were not members of the Friends of St George's, that new FOSG are very welcome- and that the subscription had been pegged at £10 since 2008. The PCC remains very grateful for the Friends' support, and would encourage everyone to join this group which has achieved a massive amount in support of our facilities in the past 15 years.
2.9	Chairperson's remarks Last year I spoke about the long road back from Covid. It is hard to think back to those days. Worship is more normal. Big friendly gatherings and Fetes have resumed. It was a pleasure to welcome schools back into the church building this Christmas. The initial tentativeness has now been overtaken by a more sure optimism. Yet the impact of the pandemic is real. Church numbers have fallen across the land. People have found new ways of worshipping. There has been some churning of congregations. Some have gone elsewhere. Some have come here Some in that churning process have stayed. Others have drifted, gone elsewhere or stopped coming to church altogether. For some the pandemic made the church even more marginalised than it already was. For others it made the church seem much more relevant, with new people of faith appearing. As a Christian community we need to redouble our efforts of nurture and welcome so that the new relationships stick. One of the significant steps forward of the past year has been the bringing together of all the hard work of what originally was called the Whole Site Plan now St George's Community Hub. This has strengthened the view of who and what we want to be in this parish. We have appointed a professional fundraiser to lead the endeavour which is an enormous but achievable task. Much of the hard work to get to the launch last month was in 2022. Another strand is the launch of the organ appeal, and I am very grateful to Drew for spearheading this, very much in conjunction with the Community Hub development. We are blessed with a first class instrument as well as a first-class Director of Music. Drew plays it so well that it is hard to believe it is in great need of restoration and our thanks go to him in this undertaking. I have other thanks to make this morning. To Graham our churchwarden. I have found Graham a great colleague and I'm sad that he has had to plough that furrow alone in his final year as churchwarden. My thanks go to Ollie Dempsey who with Joan and members of the Pastoral Visiting Ministry team reach out to the sick and housebound in our number. This work is greatly valued.

	Today I don't wish to thank the obvious people. I prefer this morning to thank the quiet people. So I offer my thanks to Monica Ogden for her faithful work in the Sacristy. Also to Doreen Taylor – who still does the small linen laundry, despite being very much housebound. She takes great comfort and satisfaction from this service and she remains very much a valued member of this community. Finally I wish to thank those who work with children and young people. Those who lead Smarties, and our uniformed organisations. Those who work alongside the servers. Those involved with Junior Choir. All those who talk to our children and treat them as equal children of God. Thanks to one and all for your contribution to the life of St George's.
2.10	Consideration of other matters of parochial or general church interest Thanks to Barbara Peacock were added from the floor for her work week in and week out supporting services. An update was requested on the installation of the new sound system. A suitable system at a cost of something over £10,000 had been identified following an options appraisal organised by the Churchwarden. The delay in installation was that we awaited the outcome of a funding application. If unsuccessful, the PCC has already agreed the project should be met by church funds in the context of post-Covid progress referred to by the chair, it was suggested we return to the bringing up of the Elements from the nave, an involvement of congregation members in worship which enhanced the link between those in the pews and those in the chancel. The suggestion was warmly welcomed by the chair as something that can indeed be resumed – once we have addressed the issue of our churchwarden vacancy. Having encouraged those present to avail themselves of leaflets on the Parish Share, and the forms of Prayers for the Coronation of King Charles III on the following Saturday, the vicar led us in closing the meeting with the Grace.

Appendix -SUPPORTED BY CHARITABLE GIVING 2022

A total of £2000 was disbursed

Charitable giving was considered too late this year to support Angel Tree which offers Christmas Gifts to the children of prisoners.

The PCC therefore agreed for 2022 instead to donate £200 each to the West End Refugee Service – WERS - and Rainbow Home which supports LGBTQ+ people seeking asylum and who live in the North East of England.

The other recipients were as in 2021:

Children North East

Dementia Matters

Trussell Trust Foodbank

USPG - United Society Partners in the Gospel

Friends of Jesmond Library

Jesmond Street Pastors

Street Zero

Together Newcastle (now called Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed)

Signed: Janet Wilson (Lay Chair) _____

Treasurer's Report

Much of the effect of the National Lockdown brought about by Covid-19 has been put behind us and, combining unrestricted and restricted income, donations, legacies, and trading income showed an increase of £25,872 over 2022, which is a tremendous achievement. Total restricted income amounted to £80,708 although that, of course, can only be spent on the projects for which it was raised; the PCC takes great care in ensuring that all restricted funds remain ring-fenced for their specific purposes.

A year-on-year comparison shows that trading activities have generated an improvement in income, especially in Church Hall letting and Church hire, that have increased by £9,333 to £25,121. Our properties, Tower House and Close House, were fully let throughout the year, generating income of £24,600. Fund raising events, primarily the summer Fête and Christmas Market, showed an improvement of £4,788 to £16,344, plus £4,748 generated for the restricted funds for the Hub project and Organ Restoration Fund.

Although Planned Giving, which is so important to continuing prosperity of the Church, decreased slightly again, it has held firm thanks to the continuing generosity of so many of our parishioners who also contributed sizeable sums through donations via the new electronic system that allows donations to be made by card.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £211,669, compared with £204,686 in the previous year. Although that represents an increase of only 3.4% it was achieved in the face of rising inflation particularly on utility bills for the Church and Church Hall that increased by around 50% over the previous year. The other significant saving was a further reduction in Parish Share payments to the Diocese to £90,000 for 2023, that now absorbs 45% of all unrestricted income.

As a result of these many factors there was a net deficit in 2023 of £10,822 on unrestricted funds. Despite this, there has been some financial improvement achieved and it is pleasing to see that the progressive erosion of reserves that had taken place over successive years is being brought slowly under control. Problems persist, particularly in some areas of cost like utilities, although there are signs that these costs should reduce in 2024.

Of particular benefit during the year were the generous donations from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust (CCCT) to provide support to the PCC in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings. The PCC has established a restricted fund to hold this income and apply it in accordance with the purposes specified in a Memorandum of Understanding between the PCC and the CCCT trustees. During the year all the donations totalling £15,322 were applied for those purposes.

The PCC held free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets) of £115,189, including the designated buildings works fund of £52,025. At 31st December 2023 free reserves had reduced further by £1,580 to £30,482, which still falls short of the minimum amount of around £45,000 required under the PCC's Reserves Policy. £17,360 of the legacy

received in 2022 that has been earmarked by the PCC for specific projects remains unspent and the transfer of £15,322 from the Cookson Fund brings the total general reserve stated in the accounts to £63,164. Accordingly, the PCC will continue to persevere in its endeavour to return to surplus in 2024 and subsequent years.

Restricted funds have been referred to above and the amount of work on these projects has been considerable. £36,933 was raised for the Hub during the year, to which pledges made but not yet received should be added, against which £13,377 was spend on progressing the project. £17,685 was raised for the Organ Restoration Fund; with the amount raised last year and some costs being incurred, the Organ Restoration Fund stood at £22,117 at 31st December 2023.

Another significant restricted fund relating to the Family & Youth Leader project has not altered greatly since the leader left in early 2023. No further charitable foundation grants will be received until a replacement leader is found and a balance of £12,675 remains available to fund this project.

The achievements in the year have gone a long way to restoring financial strength and, since the year end, Church income continues to improve slowly, and costs are being kept under control. The unwelcome pressure on our reserves of declining income and increased costs over several years continues, however, and in the short term reduced payments of our Parish Share are making a contribution. Although the PCC's responsibilities are not consistent with increasing the current payments until after reserves have attained the level required under the Reserves Policy, the PCC has committed to maintain payments at the existing amount of £90,000 p.a. and will work with the Diocese to identify an appropriate fair share for the future and strive to make contributions that are affordable.

Mike Ranson, Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 7 to 16.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

14 April 2024

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022*
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1(a)	109,219	75,467	-	184,686	176,356
Other trading activities	1(b)	66,065	4,748	-	70,813	53,271
Investments	1(c)	2,754	166	1,955	4,875	3,677
Church activities	1(d)	15,305	165	-	15,470	15,014
Other income	1(e)	7,137	162	-	7,299	21,585
TOTAL INCOME		200,480	80,708	1,955	283,143	269,903
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	2(b)	614	4,153	-	4,767	1,184
Church activities	2(a)	211,669	28,573	1,955	242,197	238,589
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		212,283	32,726	1,955	246,964	239,773
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(11,803)	47,982	-	36,179	30,130
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		981	-	6,152	7,133	(12,097)
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,822)	47,982	6,152	43,312	18,003
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
	9(b)	15,322	(15,322)	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667	1,086,634
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023		976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979	1,104,667

*The full statement of financial affairs for 2022 is shown in note 11 to the financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4(a)	862,205	863,374
Investments	4(b)	<u>95,660</u>	<u>88,527</u>
		957,865	951,901
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	11,959	9,842
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>185,578</u>	<u>147,928</u>
		197,537	157,770
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	<u>7,423</u>	<u>5,004</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		190,114	152,766
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,147,979</u>	<u>1,104,667</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	976,225	971,725
Restricted	8,9	100,224	67,564
Endowment	8,9	<u>71,530</u>	<u>65,378</u>
		1,147,979	1,104,667

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 14 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Janet Wilson, Lay Chair

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 INCOME

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
1(a)	Donations and legacies					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	79,066	-	-	79,066	80,128
	Tax recoverable	20,501	9,301	-	29,802	23,392
	Collections (open plate) at all services	4,066	462	-	4,528	9,048
	Sundry donations	5,586	37,882	-	43,468	16,639
	Legacies	-	2,000	-	2,000	28,380
	Grants	-	25,822	-	25,822	18,769
		109,219	75,467	-	184,686	176,356
1(b)	Other trading activities					
	Church hall letting	22,285	-	-	22,285	15,100
	Church hire	2,836	-	-	2,836	688
	Property rental income	24,600	-	-	24,600	21,179
	Fund-raising events	16,344	4,748	-	21,092	16,304
		66,065	4,748	-	70,813	53,271
1(c)	Investments					
	Dividends	797	-	1,955	2,752	2,789
	Interest	1,957	166	-	2,123	888
		2,754	166	1,955	4,875	3,677
1(d)	Church activities					
	Fees	13,705	165	-	13,870	11,326
	Youth trip	-	-	-	-	2,545
	Magazines	1,600	-	-	1,600	1,143
		15,305	165	-	15,470	15,014
1(e)	Other income					
	VAT grants	-	-	-	-	18,369
	Insurance claims	4,578	-	-	4,578	2,123
	St Hilda's contribution (ministry costs)	1,580	-	-	1,580	-
	Sundry	979	162	-	1,141	1,093
		7,137	162	-	7,299	21,585
	TOTAL INCOME	200,480	80,708	1,955	283,143	269,903

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

2 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
2 (a) Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Missions and other Church Societies	-	-	-	-	-
Charitable donations	4,500	314	-	4,814	972
	4,500	314	-	4,814	972
Ministry:					
Parish Share	90,000	-	-	90,000	100,000
Clergy expenses	2,076	-	-	2,076	3,125
Clergy housing expenses	6,214	-	-	6,214	6,356
Fees paid to diocese	3,198	-	-	3,198	5,827
Church – running expenses	24,528	-	-	24,528	14,964
Church maintenance	22,105	262	11	22,378	5,284
Upkeep of services	3,573	-	-	3,573	2,029
Parish magazine and publicity	196	1,127	-	1,323	523
Church Hall running costs	12,879	-	-	12,879	7,613
Church Hall maintenance	1,238	-	-	1,238	15,802
Other property upkeep	1,886	-	1,944	3,830	8,524
Whole site plan development	-	10,805	-	10,805	8,008
Flowers	377	2,464	-	2,841	238
Asset depreciation	-	1,169	-	1,169	1,607
Others	2,709	3,463	-	6,172	2,514
Organ and choir	15,301	7,128	-	22,429	15,193
Children and young people	214	1,841	-	2,055	20,828
Printing, stationery and office costs	4,741	-	-	4,741	5,148
Office administration	12,792	-	-	12,792	11,666
Bank charges	453	-	-	453	438
Professional fees	1,026	-	-	1,026	342
Independent examiner's fees, including payroll	1,663	-	-	1,663	1,588
Total Church activities	211,669	28,573	1,955	242,197	238,589
2 (b) Raising funds					
Costs of fund raising activities	614	4,153	-	4,767	1,184
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	212,283	32,726	1,955	246,964	239,773

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

3	STAFF COSTS	2023 £	2022 £
	Wages and salaries	21,433	36,239
	Pension costs	419	887
		21,852	37,126

During the year the PCC employed an administrator and a director of music.

4 **FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC**

4 (a)	Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and office equipment £	Total £
	COST OR VALUATION			
	At 1 January 2023	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
	Additions	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2023	300,751	31,860	332,611
	Charge in year	-	1,169	1,169
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2023	300,751	33,029	333,780
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2023	861,036	1,169	862,205
	At 31 December 2022	861,036	2,338	863,374

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The latest available valuation for insurance purposes amounted to £3,969,000.

4 (b)	Investments	2023 £	2022 £
	At market valuation:		
	3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	71,530	65,378
	14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	24,130	23,149
		95,660	88,527

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2023 is £51,916 (2022: £51,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2023	88,527
Purchases	-
Revaluation of investments	7,133
At 31 December 2023	95,660

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed Assets	-	886,335	-	71,530	957,865
Current Assets	70,587	26,726	100,224	-	197,537
Current liabilities	(7,423)	-	-	-	(7,423)
	63,164	913,061	100,224	71,530	1,147,979

6 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Gift aid recoverable	4,614	5,412
Sundry debtors and accrued income	7,345	4,430
	11,959	9,842

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors for goods and services	5,524	1,668
Accruals and deferred income	1,899	3,336
	7,423	5,004

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	52,025	-	-	52,075
General fund	63,164	-	-	63,164
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,075	-	1,075
Donations restricted by donors – access to capital and interest	-	99,149	-	99,149
Donations restricted by donors – access to interest only	-	-	71,530	71,530
	976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

9 (a) Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2023 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	50,247	797	-	-	981	52,025
General	60,442	199,683	(212,283)	15,322	-	63,164
Total Unrestricted funds	971,725	200,480	(212,283)	15,322	981	976,225

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

9 (b) Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources		Balance 31 December 2023 £
			Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Bell Ringers fund	1,389	-	165	(479)	1,075
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	36,637	-	2,166	(1,169)	37,634
Flowers	1,027	-	1,916	(2,464)	479
Family & Youth leader fund	14,776	-	-	(2,101)	12,675
Choral Scholarships	2,300	-	2,486	(3,100)	1,686
Director of Music	-	-	1,955	(1,955)	-
Singing Group	1,917	-	-	(1,660)	257
Music	1,273	-	1,765	(2,744)	294
The Hub	-	-	36,933	(13,377)	23,556
Organ Restoration project	7,794	-	17,685	(3,362)	22,117
The Cookson Fund	-	(15,322)	15,322	-	-
Other grants and donations	331	-	314	(314)	331
Total Restricted funds	67,564	(15,322)	80,708	(32,726)	100,224

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader and Director of Music funds are sums raised to support the work of those roles.

The Singing Group fund was donated by Jesmond Dementia Action Alliance, to fund a further 40 sessions of the singing group they established.

The Hub relates to the project to add an extension to the Church and redevelop the Hall and all associated activities (formerly known as the Whole Site Plan).

The Organ Restoration project relates to the full restoration of the St George's organ which was built in 1887.

The Cookson Fund. During the year a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Trustees of the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust who have generously offered to make donations to provide support to the PCC of St. George's Church in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings. The PCC has established a Restricted Fund, the Cookson Fund, to hold this income and apply it in accordance with the purposes specified in the Memorandum of Understanding. During the year donations totalling £15,322 were received, all of which were applied for those purposes; accordingly, a transfer of £15,322 from the Cookson Fund to the general, unrestricted fund has been made at the year end.

The other funds have similarly been restricted by donors so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS (continued)

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2023 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	65,378	1,955	(1,955)	-	6,152	71,530

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, Nigel Russell-Sewell was paid a £800 Choral scholarship and £115 in session fees. Other members of the PCC were reimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC amounting in total to £5,775.

11 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1 (a)	154,900	21,456	-	176,356	213,472
Other trading activities	1 (b)	53,191	80	-	53,271	43,549
Investments	1 (c)	1,721	12	1,944	3,677	2,603
Church activities	1 (d)	15,014	-	-	15,014	7,317
Other income	1 (e)	3,087	18,498	-	21,585	-
TOTAL INCOME		227,913	40,046	1,944	269,903	266,941
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	2 (b)	1,184	-	-	1,184	180
Church activities	2 (a)	204,686	31,959	1,944	238,589	302,864
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		205,870	31,959	1,944	239,773	303,044
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		22,043	8,087	-	30,130	(36,103)
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		(3,375)	-	(8,722)	(12,097)	13,390
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		18,668	8,087	(8,722)	18,003	(22,713)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2022		953,057	59,477	74,100	1,086,634	1,109,347
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667	1,109,347

Accounts

30th April 2023



Annual Reports and Accounts for the Parochial
Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond, for the
year ending 31st December 2022

Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond

Registered Charity No. 1132758

Aim and Purpose

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Brian Hurst, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Church Hall, Tower House, Close house, and the Green.

Objectives and Activities

St George's seeks to be an Inclusive Church and has set the following areas of focus for our energies:

- Open and welcoming church community
- Inclusive and traditional worship
- Questioning and nurturing faith
- Relevant and engaged in the wider world

PCC Members who served during 2022

Ex Officio

Incumbent: Reverend Brian Hurst

Curates: Reverend Stephanie Keates (to May 2022), Reverend Derek Avery (to November 2022), Reverend Oliver Dempsey

Lay Reader and Anna Chaplain: Joan Grenfell

Churchwarden: Graham Hatt (since 2020)

General Synod: Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth

Lay Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mike de la Hunt (2020-2023), Kay Plumley (2020-2023)

Treasurer: Mike Ranson

Elected Members

Sophie Leach (to February 2022)

Paul Taylor (to April 2022)

Jon Davies (to August 2022)

Donald Gaze (2020-2023)

Tom Klenka (2020-2023)

Sue Vernon (2021-2024)

Hilary Cullingford (2022-2025)

Ian Ness (2022-2025)

Margaret Vane (2022-2025)

In Attendance

Secretary: Janet Wilson

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Agenda

1. Annual Meeting of Parishioners

- 1.1. Appointment of Secretary
- 1.2. Election of Churchwardens

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 2.1. Consideration of Electoral Roll
- 2.2. Approval of Sidespeople
- 2.3. Election of representatives to Deanery Synod
- 2.4. Election of representatives to the PCC
- 2.5. Consideration of:
 - 2.5.1. Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC
 - 2.5.2. Churchwarden's Report and the Report on Fixtures and Fittings
 - 2.5.3. A Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod
- 2.6. Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts
- 2.7. Appointment of the Independent Examiner
- 2.8. Safeguarding Report and reaffirmation of the Safeguarding Policy
- 2.9. Reaffirmation of the Inclusive Church statement
- 2.10. Consideration of Committee, Group, and other Reports
 - 2.10.1. Children and Young People
 - 2.10.2. Eco Group and reaffirmation of the Eco Policy
 - 2.10.3. Faith and Nurture Group
 - 2.10.4. Anna Chaplain
 - 2.10.5. Community Hub Steering Group
 - 2.10.6. Music
 - 2.10.7. Bellringers
 - 2.10.8. Friends of St George's
- 2.11. Chairperson's remarks
- 2.12. Consideration of other matters of parochial or general church interest

Electoral Roll Report

The revision of the Electoral Roll was completed on 16th April 2023.

The roll contains 201 names; 87 are resident in the parish and 114 are non-resident.

In April 2022 the roll contained 197 names - there have been 11 additions and 7 deletions since then.

The secretaries of the Diocesan and Deanery Synod have been duly informed of the current roll numbers.

Margaret Baron, Electoral Roll Officer

*

List of sidespeople

Lorna & Paul Taylor
Barbara Peacock
Graham, Caroline & Andrew Field
Jon & Jean Davies
Hazel Jones-Lee
Sue King
Margaret Tait
Samuel Parker
Christine Rowland
Leslie Wilkinson
Chris & Sylvia Stenton
Peter Magnay
Jim Lowe
Donald Gaze
Barbara Gardner
Jenny Click
Janet Wilson
Brent & Ella Swinburne
Andrew Swai
Julian & Kay Plumley
Peter & Vera Friberg-Rodgers
Jackie & Ian Spencer
Mike & Linsley de la Hunt

The Vicar's Report

A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged.

At a parochial level, the year 2022 has been very much a year of covid recovery, as we slowly emerged from the pandemic, re-established confidence, and took stock of the cost and impact that covid has had on churches up and down the land. At a national and international level, the year will be remembered as the one in which we lost our most devoted Sovereign Lady, her late Queen Elizabeth II; as a parish we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the Big Friendly Jubilee Gathering and we mourned her loss with a book of remembrance and Requiem Eucharist.

In an ever-changing ministry team, I continue to be grateful for the support and encouragement of colleagues.

Ollie Dempsey slipped into last year's report, arriving with us in time for Advent '21. He is now very much a part and parcel of the place as he heads toward the third anniversary of his ordination.

Advent '22 was the time when Derek Avery's curacy drew to a close. It has been a great joy having Derek serve his title with us and gain experience of priestly ministry. The Bishop and Derek continue to be in conversation about the shape and place of his future ministry, and in the meantime, we continue to benefit from his presence in the Sunday congregation, and using his skills, gifts, and talents within the parish.

We also said a fond farewell to Stephanie Keates who ended her curacy and headed to the coast to serve the people of St Aidan, Billy Mill and St Hilda, Marden with Preston Grange as priest-in-charge of the benefice.

It was a delight to see so many people from St George's supporting both Helen Young and Nathanael Hayler at their ordination as deacons at Petertide, and we wish them well in this coming year.

Lest we think ministry is all about the ordained, Malcolm Toft, who had been worshipping with us for a good number of months, a well-established Reader and churchman, was licensed to the parish as Reader during the autumn. And I know many of us are glad of his presence among us.

We also give thanks that Izzy McDonald-Booth, having responded positively to the call to train as a Reader, was selected for training and has begun on Lindisfarne College. We have already benefited from her praying and preaching among us. The downside of her course is that Readers-in-training are asked to sit light to some of their parish responsibilities.

With so much coming and going, I have been grateful of Joan Grenfell's constancy, her preaching and teaching ministry, and thankful too for Joan's ministry as an Anna Chaplain to our Nursing Homes, study groups, and as Pastoral Visitor co-ordinator.

As the year progressed it became much easier, and acceptable, to visit the sick and bereaved at home and on occasion in hospital. There is a good, small, reliable team of visitors who take on this role and they are a great example of shared ministry in this place.

I know that the congregation is immensely grateful, as I am, to Graham Hatt who has inhabited the ancient and honourable office of churchwarden with grace and patience for the past three years and doing so this past year as your sole warden. Graham has approached this role with common sense, and has greatly reduced your expectations of the churchwarden, whilst fulfilling the office with responsibility and seriousness.

In seeking to share the tasks accumulated to the churchwardens, others, including "deputy wardens", have stepped up to the mark – in part this was a response to the Time and Talents campaign, and I am thankful for all who made offers, and hope that they have by now been taken up.

Despite the work done by the PCC, it remains a huge concern that, at the time of writing, no one is willing to stand as warden for the coming year.

In the autumn Emily Gibson left the employment of St George's as the Youth and Family Leader.

Our Lenten study included a series of special speakers, talking on a wide range of subjects from art to Bach, from Hadrian's Wall to Santiago de Compostela, and culminated in a timely introduction to the triduum led by Canon David Kennedy, vicar of Corbridge; our bible studies reflected on 'Identities around the Cross'; others enjoyed thinking more deeply on the 1988 video version 'the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe'; the introverts enjoyed a weekly time of silent prayer.

We were privileged to have our thoughts during the three great days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day led by Canon Jennifer Cooper (Director of IME and Canon Theologian) on the topic 'The things that make for peace'... a topic made more relevant by the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Easter Day saw a goodly number in church (a 50% increase on the previous year, which shows how cautious we must be with statistics!). While Christmas communicants (at 183) compares well with 2019 figures; however, the 1,015 worshippers on Christmas Eve was well down on the 2019 figure. But it was, as always, good to welcome some 862 pupils and parents for special end of term Christmas carol services this year.

Throughout the year five candidates were presented for Confirmation – Stephen Dawes was presented to the Bishop of Wakefield at Cullercoats, and Emma, Eve, Shaun, and Will were presented at All Saints’ Gosforth to Bishop Mark Bryant.

The PCC has pressed on with plans for the whole site, and with developing a vision for St George’s Community Hub 2025. It appointed Paul Baird, an experienced Fundraising Consultant with a track record in major funding for projects with listed buildings, to work with it as it launches the funding campaign early in 2023.

During the year a small number of St George’s people have been working in various ways with refugees and asylum seekers, looking for sanctuary within this city. I am immensely grateful to them for their quiet, tough sometimes, campaigning work with these our neighbours. Four families have been housed by the Catherine Cookson Trust and, in partnership with it, the net rental income is being donated to St George’s by the Trust. In the coming year, this will put our finances on a firmer footing as we seek to build on our service in the community.

Elsewhere in this full report we will read of the many and varied ways in which our common life is shaped. It all represents an incredible amount of work, time, and commitment; done willingly and in the name Our Lord it is to God’s praise and glory, as we seek to be a worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged.

The Reverend Canon Brian Hurst

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Parochial Church Council Report

This report highlights key points from meetings in 2022. Full, recent PCC minutes are at <https://stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/church-life/who-we-are/the-pcc/> - others are available from the Parish Office.

February

The generous Legacy of Miss Ann Biles – some £28,380 – was gratefully noted. Money would remain in a designated fund and some portion of the money be allocated to the project reflecting her interest in the parish. Nonetheless, in respect of day-to-day spending, the PCC continued to operate with year on year deficits. It was agreed that this was an unsustainable position. Accordingly, the Parish Share offer was £100,000, some £13,000 lower than in 2021, and subject to mid-year review. Completion of the hall roof insulation was approved.

March

The hall roof insulation was complete and the new boiler about to be installed. The ECO group was to commence progress from our current bronze eco-church status towards silver and on to gold status. There was unanimous support for Izzy McDonald-Booth’s application to the demanding 3 year Lay Ministry training programme. The financial reports and outline plans

for the Platinum Jubilee gathering and summer fête on seventh May were all approved. Modest hall hire charge increases were to be implemented.

May

Arrangements were made for the replacement of the noticeboard which had suffered storm damage, this cost being covered by insurance. Lone Worker, Social Media, and Legacy policies were approved, as were Design Principles for our community space and work to identify a suitable Fundraising Consultant. The quality of sound amplification within the church building was discussed and external assessments pursued. The Rev Stephanie Keats had been appointed to North Shields; she was congratulated and thanked for her PCC contributions over almost 4 years. The Fete had been a notable success.

July

The PCC agreed to support the much needed Organ Restoration Project as presented by the Director of Music. The Big friendly Jubilee gathering had been a considerable success. A pair of smart speakers had been tested within the church. While the sound quality improvement was considerable, cost was regarded as prohibitive and other quotations and solutions were sought.

Following the Annual Meeting, Graham Hatt had been functioning as a lone warden. The role of warden at St George's had gradually increased over the years, particularly during Covid. This meant it was unmanageable for a single individual and furthermore others were disincentivised from considering the position because of the perception of said workload. Attempts will be made to establish the true core activities of St George's church warden.

Financial review indicated that we were not in a position to restore the parish share above the existing offer of £100,000, although continuing efforts were being made by a fundraising group to boost external income to the maximum. A scoping exercise had been undertaken to identify a suitable fundraising consultant. The matter was of some urgency due to the potential collapse of hard won planning permissions. One fundraiser had already been excluded on grounds of cost and the final decision was imminent. The PCC approved funds for the initial fundraising phase, essentially a feasibility scoping exercise. The resignation of Ian Ness as quinquennial architect was tendered.

September

PCC accepted Malcolm Toft ministry as a Reader licensed to the parish, having been an experienced reader at St Andrews Newgate Street. Tom Klenka had taken up the post as Health and Safety Officer. Dr Graham Rutt's request that the parish undertake a Revive and Refresh campaign along the lines of prior Time and Talents initiatives was supported unanimously. The possibility of Assistant Churchwardens was being explored. It remained unclear whether the Garden of Remembrance endowment fund was in fact truly a restricted fund and whether its conditions allowed for some of its funds contribute to the building of a replacement boundary wall between the GoR and the tennis club, following the storm damage to the pre-existing fence. Paul Baird had accepted an appointment as St George's

fundraising consultant. The gift of a votive candle stand from a member of the congregation was discussed.

November

There was further discussion around sound solutions (in addition to a valuable training session from Prof Paul Carding on articulation by readers and intercessors). External input was sought from the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Reports were received from the Children and Young People Group; Deanery Synod; Grounds and Gardens and ECO group. The manifest success of Director of Music in a range of activities was gratefully acknowledged. Finances remained problematic. Due to improvements in energy conservation, utility bills had not seen the anticipated dramatic increase unlike insurance costs which had risen considerably. Floodlighting costs were reviewed and potential for a reduced period of illumination to be discussed with Watson Trust.

December

Mr Ian Watson kindly offered to supply the lighting funding shortfall in the form of an additional grant in order to avoid reduced hours during the national energy crisis. The initial strategy of Paul Baird, our Community Hub Fundraising Consultant, was reviewed and PCC agreed to fund the remainder of Paul Baird's contract. PCC approved applications for Assistant Churchwarden positions from Graham Rutt, Enid Pearson, Chris Stenton, and David Cullingford. The favoured provider of an updated sound system was Clockwork AV solutions, at a cost of £10,656. A potential grant for some or all of this sum would be explored before commissioning the works in 2023. The success of the Christmas market was noted.

Membership

Tom Klenka and Donald Gaze's terms of office will expire at the Annual Meeting 2023. Jon Davies demitted office in August 2022. There are in total three PCC vacancies available following the APCM April 2023, in addition to one Deanery Synod vacancy.

I wish to thank Jon, Tom and Donald and continuing PCC members for their adaptability and hard work; Tom for taking on the role of Health and Safety officer; Caroline Field for her invaluable financial support of Gift Aid and online giving, Hazel Jones-Lee for supporting publicity and the fabulous but often unsung talents of the Hospitality Network.

Janet A. Wilson, PCC Secretary

Churchwarden's Report

For the first time that I can remember, we were unable to find a replacement for an outgoing Churchwarden to replace Louise Chapman, who had already served an extra year in 2021-2022 to make sure I had a good handover, and therefore I was your sole Churchwarden over the past 12 months. Fortunately for me, most of the ex-wardens were willing to take turns to help me at the back of church on a Sunday morning and I'm very grateful to Louise Chapman, David Cullingford, Mike de La Hunt, Derek Nicholson, Enid Pearson, Hilary Pitkethly, Graham Rutt, Ian Spencer, and Chris Stenton, for stepping in and sharing the responsibilities over the past 12 months. I've enjoyed your company and have learnt something from each of you.

Special thanks must go to Graham Rutt who formed a sub-group of 'assistant wardens' with Chris Stenton, David Cullingford, and Enid Pearson. Graham Rutt has also helped me to slim down the Churchwarden role to make it more manageable. I'd like to thank everyone on the tea and coffee rota who has taken back setting up the tables on a Sunday morning and Derek Nicholson who has taken over the sourcing and serving of wine after Evensong.

The livestreaming system has now become an important part of the way we operate and it has enabled countless people to keep in touch whilst being unable to be physically with us. This has been particularly important for a number of weddings and funerals over the course of the past 12 months. The team, led by Janet Wilson, welcomed Sylvia Dahabra and Vera Friberg-Rogers this year to join Donald Gaze, Jackie Spencer, Margaret Baron, and Sam Parker. There have been a couple of sketchy moments when technology has let us down, but on the whole the group have managed to deliver a remarkably consistent and high quality service and have made sure to always balance the needs of the virtual audience with our safeguarding obligations.

With the help of Janet Wilson we have an agreed plan to significantly improve the church sound system and we are currently waiting on a grant application to allow this work to proceed.

We have continued collections of food and toiletries donations for refugees and the local foodbanks and for Children North East.

I am grateful to Brian Hurst, Ollie Dempsey, Joan Grenfell and all our clergy team. I thank Bryan Vernon for leading our monthly Taizé service and for continuing to host the weekly virtual coffee morning on Zoom which he established during Covid.

Mike Ranson, our treasurer, has continued to guide us in the proper financial management of the church and has worked hard to ensure we have a plan to bring our reserves back to a suitable level after reducing in each of the past five years. Janet Wilson, our PCC secretary, a role which has much in common with herding cats, has continued to keep the PCC organised and focused. I'm very grateful for their work and for that of Jonathan Richards in the parish

office who continues to provide cheerful support in the administration and management of so many areas.

Many people have been involved in the development of the vision for our future; The St Georges Community Hub: A safe shared space in the heart of Jesmond during the past year. An external fundraiser, Paul Baird, was appointed in August and he has really helped us to shape our thinking and has helped us with a large number of external grant applications. I am optimistic that this will enable us to begin the construction of the whole site plan soon.

I am grateful for all who have taken part in the sidespersons' rota this year – you continue to play a vital role in welcoming regular parishioners and visitors, putting them at their ease, and in helping me look out for everyone.

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, our Director of Music, has made a significant impact to music and to the wider life of the church over the past year. He has established a new junior choir on a Thursday afternoon, Choral and Organ scholarships for young people, expanded and strengthened our fabulous choir and delivered a number of special events including a fantastic silent movie screening of 'Phantom of the Opera' accompanied by improvised organ music. Drew has many new events planned for the future in aid of the new organ repair fund.

I would like to recognise the incredibly important work that Barbara Peacock continues to carry out on an almost daily basis in setting up the church for services, and a whole host of related jobs, without which we would cease to operate. Barbara is always there with a funny comment, encouragement, or a word of friendly advice, and will regularly put me straight on a point of church etiquette that I'm unaware of.

I was really hoping that over the course of the past 12 months, a couple of suitable volunteers would be found to take over the role of Churchwarden as I come to the end of my third term. I had been prepared to do an extra year for a handover if necessary, however as I write this, I find myself in a position in which I have no one to hand over to. Balancing the needs of this role, family and work life has been quite a challenge over the past three years and I feel I can't continue without being able to hand the baton on to somebody new. It has been a great privilege to serve as your Churchwarden and I hope that at some point soon, we are able to re-establish this role.

I would like to thank each of you for your continued contribution and support to our shared life at St George's and in our communities in Jesmond and beyond.

Graham Hatt, Churchwarden

Fixtures and Fittings Report

The Terrier and Inventory, which are the formal records of the church buildings, grounds, and contents, were updated in March 2023. All 91 items on the existing inventory were accounted for.

General Maintenance

The volunteer Tuesday Group has continued over the course of the past year, and I am immensely grateful for all their hard work, especially Mike de la Hunt and Brent Swinburne who each take a degree of informal leadership of the group. Much of the work would only be noticed if it wasn't done and is quite invisible to most people. Ian Spencer continues to carry out all manner of electrical maintenance jobs which saves us considerable expense.

The organ has continued to require a significant amount of maintenance, including rewinding of the main motor earlier in the year which put the organ out of action for a couple of weeks.

Stephanie Keates moved out of Close House earlier in the year and the Tuesday Group helped to clean, paint, and prepare it for our new tenants.

Up until very recently, the replacement of the old noticeboard could have been regarded as a success, but alas the recent high winds have demonstrated that the four support columns (which are connected to steel tubes embedded in a very large concrete foundation) have failed at the ground level joint. I am currently looking at options to sort out a long-term fix but in the meantime I'm afraid we will have to live with just one of the boards.

Very recently the Building and Grounds committee has been re-established by Derek Nicholson (with Ian Spencer, David Cullingford and myself) after lapsing during Covid. This group has been sorely missed in recent years as the maintenance demands of a Victorian grade 1 listed church are never-ending. In the first meeting we reviewed the last quinquennial inspection, which was carried out by Ian Ness in December 2019. We hope to be able to address the issues with the broken speed bumps and uneven paving over the next year.

Church Hall

In March 2022 the church hall loft void was insulated with 300mm of insulation and a new efficient condensing boiler installed, and over the course of the past 12 months, despite increased use as we gradually emerge into a more active and social post-Covid period, we have used roughly 30% less gas.

Garden of Remembrance

The new foundation for the stone wall to the rear of the garden of remembrance was completed a year ago and this has secured our planning approval for the church extension. We had hoped to make progress on the construction of this wall, but things have unfortunately taken longer than anticipated and I hope we will manage to make progress on this over the next 12 months.

Trees

Dendra have recently carried out a full inspection of every tree on the green to identify any diseased specimens and to recommend any tree surgery work that may be required to keep the area safe.

Graham Hatt, Churchwarden

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Deanery Synod Report

There have been 3 Deanery Synod meetings since the last APCM, chaired by Rev. Pauline Pearson, Area Dean.

May 2022, Church of The Ascension, Kenton.

Meeting ran as a rotating small group discussion on a number of topics:

Motion passed: 'This Central Deanery commits to achieve net zero by 2030'. Each PCC is asked to formally make the same commitment and to sign up for 'Eco Church', if not already done. Discussion on status by church, what might be reapplied and barriers to progress. St. George's has already committed to net zero by 2030 and is a Bronze Eco church.

We discussed building a Deanery Directory and identifying ways to share resources/ expertise. The groups discussed what might be included in such a directory, who should maintain it and how we might share resources and expertise.

Which local needs might we address collaboratively - food poverty; coordinating responses to refugees; homelessness; dementia support; communication opportunities; looking after ourselves.

July 2022, Holy Trinity, Jesmond.

The meeting focused on a review of actions arising from the May meeting; a presentation about preparations for 'Generosity Week' in September; table discussions on getting back to 'normal' after Covid; the challenges with trying to achieve net zero with our energy hungry buildings and the need to think about other environmental challenges as well as carbon.

20 October St. Thomas the Martyr Church, Haymarket.

The Deanery Plan

Over the next 3 years a plan will be developed to share people, time and resources across the churches and parishes in the Deanery. Including clergy, lay leaders, and retired clergy. Information was shared on screen from a Diocesan Synod about the approach to be taken – outward looking; developing flourishing leaders; creating new Christian communities and new Christians; making disciples who build up the church; always growing younger; flourishing financially. Data sheets from the Deanery churches were shared and there were small group discussions about the information.

Parish Share: The new Deanery Share calculations are underway and all were urged to help and support this important process.

We continue to work together and support one another in Central Deanery in a positive and constructive way.

Izzy McDonald-Booth, Kay Plumley, and Mike de la Hunt

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Safeguarding Report

Safeguarding is integral to all institutions: the previous record of the church demonstrates why it is so important.

We follow the National Guidelines on safeguarding. The church has slowly changed its procedures in line with this. This has meant rapidly embracing guidelines regarding media and internet use as well as practically keeping everyone safe bringing the church into line.

It remains essential to the safety of St Georges that we adhere to safeguarding policies and procedures. There has been one safeguarding incident this year, which by its nature remains confidential, and we have worked closely with other agencies in handling this.

I am thankful to everyone for their co-operation and support in doing this role, the clergy, churchwarden, local police, and church secretaries and the wider congregation. In a digital age where photographs of children can be manipulated to create pornographic images, we face challenges to longstanding practices that none of us would have foreseen last century.

Dr Sue Vernon, Safeguarding Officer

THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S JESMOND SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 21 March 2023

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

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

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually
- This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Meeting

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Dr Sue Vernon as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent

Churchwardens

Date.....

Inclusive Church Statement

“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement/>

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Children and Young People Report

Background: What the PCC has chartered the CYP to do; team members this year

The purpose of the CYP is to ‘Help to deliver the Church Vision for children & young people, especially to meet their spiritual & worshipping needs’. Team members throughout the year were Alison, Brian, Kay, Lorna, and Sarah, with Sue Vernon attending occasionally in an advisory capacity as Safeguarding Officer. Izzy and Sophie resigned during the year, with much gratitude for their valued contributions to the work over many years. Lucy and Ollie joined the team during the year. And Emily Gibson left St. Georges as Family & Youth Leader in November.

Back to normal – thank you to all the volunteers!

After the pandemic years, we were delighted to be ‘Back to normal’ with children’s activities. Smarties had resumed back in 2021 and with Little Saints (led by Christine’s team) back up and running after Easter, the Summer Fete and BFJG, all our regular activities have resumed. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who run Smarties: Lucy (who organises), Alison, Catherine, Hilary, Jen, Joan, Lana, Sarah, Susan, and Ros.

Residentials

Emily organised 2 residential events during the year, one in January and the other in August. Both events were jointly organised with Morpeth. Very few St. George’s young people attended.

Children in Church

Emily led a piece of work to establish a monthly ‘Children in Church’ service. The idea was to have more accessible music, prayers, sermons etc, while allowing those who prefer to attend

a quieter service the option to attend the 11:30am instead. These services started in February and ran through to the summer holidays. There were some great highlights (Donald's readings and Graham Rutt's teaspoon prayers come to mind), but there was much that needed further work. With Emily's departure, they have been put on hold.

Easter activities

A 'Resurrection Trail' was run around the Green again. Sophie ran Easter Crafts on the Saturday before Palm Sunday and Emily organised Cross Crafts on Good Friday.

Events

The Summer Fete would not be complete without children's activities. This year Emily ran Cross Crafts for perhaps 100 children and the scouts organised seed bombs. The Big Friendly Jubilee Gathering featured Crown Crafts organised by Emily with help from Morpeth volunteers, as well Eco crafts with bug hotels and bird box assembly. In the summer, Emily and a volunteer Art student worked with a number of community groups to have them decorate 'Peace Poles'. These should have been varnished and then displayed around Jesmond, but in the absence of a Youth Leader they have not been finalized.

Vision Day

In May, Emily organised a Vision Day at St. Hilda's, inviting a facilitator from another church to help a group of perhaps 20 from the congregation to select immediate priorities for our children's and youth work. 3 priorities were chosen: Children in Church (to sort out in the next few months or to drop); Messy Church; Work with Students. While both Children in Church services and work with students have been put on hold since Emily's departure, there is better news on Messy Church.

Messy Church

In November, Ollie organised Messy Church with the theme of Northern Saints. Many people volunteered to run a craft or serve refreshments and the event was great fun. We would like to run Messy Church one Saturday per school term.

Housekeeping & Maintenance

A group of brave volunteers cleared out the upper room in the Hall, carting a lot of junk away and doing some serious deep cleaning. And the Children's Corner in church has had a refurbishment after the floor was repaired by Ian.

A consultation process, facilitated by the Diocesan Children & Youth Team Leader, is planned for the spring, to clarify our strategy for children and young people and where an employed person might fit into this. We could also use your help and skills in all sorts of ways - designing Messy Church posters, gathering materials for or running activities, joining the Smarties rota and more - so do contact us!

Kay Plumley, on behalf of the CYP

Eco Group Report

The Group has met on a regular basis through the year, on the basis of every 4 to 6 weeks. We continue to work against four key themes, which are:

1. Achieving Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2030;
2. Addressing our waste and recycling;
3. Encouraging biodiversity on our estate, and
4. Promoting environmental awareness amongst the congregation at large.

Against these objectives, the following activities and projects have been addressed during the past year:

1. Net Zero

We successfully applied for 2 grants for a new Hall boiler and Graham Hatt arranged for its installation. Together with roof insulation and new heating controls, these improvements have reduced our Hall gas use by 33% compared to the same period last year, even while Hall use has increased.

We have completed an Initial appraisal of alternative heating schemes for the Church to provide a lower carbon footprint, including testing of heated pew cushions and a visit to the Cathedral to see their underfloor heating system. Next, an energy audit will be done on the church and we hope that this will result in a recommendation to the PCC on next steps towards net zero in the church.

Implementation of energy monitoring programme to accurately track our gas and electricity usage.

2. Recycling

Recycling facilities are now available in the Hall kitchen. In 2023 we are looking to expand this to the church vestry as well.

3. Biodiversity

A Land Management Scheme is now in place for the green areas around the church. A bird box and bug hotel were installed during the year.

4. Environmental Awareness

3 events were organised during coffee after church: In February there was a presentation about the work of the Eco group and the overall plan; In May, we had a session on recycling, including a game to see how well people know what they can recycle and where; In October we had an Energy themed session with a quiz, tips on how to save energy as well as videos and a presentation.

There was an Eco stall at the Big Friendly Coronation Gathering, especially to younger members of the community, which featured bug hotels, bird box assembly and some colouring in for the children.

Finally, work continues against the Eco-Church scheme to transition from our present bronze level to silver.

John Clark, Chair Eco Group

Environmental Policy

St. George's Church accepts responsibility for its effects on the environment and is committed to reduce them. As your local Church of England (Anglican) church, one of our Five Marks of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The key points of our strategy to achieve this are:

- a. Frequently emphasise God's love for Creation and our stewardship of nature, through our worship and teaching.
- b. Understand and minimise the impact of our church activities, land, and buildings on the environment, especially on the climate and biodiversity.
- c. Implement an awareness program for our congregation, volunteers, and staff to enlist their support in improving the church's impact on the environment.
- d. Measure our carbon footprint and set targets for ongoing improvement which achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Understand what would be required to reach this target and draw up an economically sensible action plan to achieve it.
- e. Use future plans to reduce our environmental impact.
- f. Engage with other churches, the Diocese of Newcastle, the Church of England and other local and national partners to understand and follow best environmental practice & guidance in the context of listed church buildings, to secure their help and partnership to get the work done and to hold the national Church to account.
- g. Collaborate with people and groups from our local community on environmental initiatives.
- h. Establish *and maintain* an Eco Group, chartered by the Parochial Church Council, to bring environmental issues and concerns forward to them on a regular basis; with agreed membership, accountability and resources.
- i. Follow the Eco Church programme, aiming to achieve Gold certification by 2030.
- j. Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

Signed:

Dated:

March 2023

Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Review: This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Faith and Nurture Report

The stated purpose of the Faith and Nurture Group is to set the strategic direction for St George's chosen priority of 'Questioning, Nurturing Faith'. We aim to help our church to grow both numerically and spiritually.

The Group, led by Joan Grenfell, met three times in 2022 with much of our discussion and business carried out electronically between these meetings.

The membership and mission of the Group is kept under continuous review. The main other items we discussed related to:

- Lent course 2022
- Advent programme for 2022
- Learning to Live in Love and Faith
 - Having successfully completed the Pastoral Principles Course and five session LLF Course on Zoom in 2021 we had hoped to repeat the LLF course on a live face to face basis but, with a full agenda at St George's and slow return to normal post Covid, we were unable to do this in time before the feedback deadline. We did conscientiously provide feedback to the LLF Hub as individuals and as a group.
- The Enquirers and Explorers Courses
 - Now that Stephanie who ran these courses has moved onto greater things, we have discussed the future of these courses in terms of timing, content, and leadership.
- Visit to the Lindisfarne Gospels
- Northern Saints Pilgrimage to Holy Island

We will always welcome new members and any suggestions to help our community grow spiritually as well as in number.

Joan Grenfell, Michael de la Hunt

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Anna Chaplain Report

Restrictions lifted... nearly.

My ministry this year has been a case of working with the three Care Homes I am involved with as they have tried to 'get back to normal' as Covid restrictions have gradually been lifted.

I have been able to take the Sacrament into two of the Care Homes since April but was only allowed to do this in Craghall from September. Mask wearing has been obligatory until the restriction was finally lifted in January 2023.

Taking the Sacrament into Craghall last September, the first time for almost 3 years, was very emotional for everyone.

However, I was still not allowed to mingle freely with residents in the main lounge. This was disappointing for me. Reconnecting with some residents will have to wait until all restrictions are lifted.

I have maintained a close relationship with those residents of Cestria House for whom I was the 'named visitor'. Sadly, one of those, Fred, died on Christmas morning. He died peacefully. He had been resident in Cestria for 18 years and I had known him for most of those years. He was a man of great faith, so to die on Christmas day seemed very fitting.

During the year I have joined the online training course via Zoom as a 'guest' Anna Chaplain on several occasions, sharing my experience with those about to embark on the ministry.

A highlight... if I can call it that... was the week following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth when I was able to offer a short service in each care home, giving the residents the opportunity to give thanks for the life of the Queen and to share their memories of her.

In each of the homes the lounge was full as all the residents, who had grown up with her, wanted to pay their respects.

The ministry of the Anna Chaplain, I hope, enriches the lives of residents and staff in Care homes... as it certainly enriches mine.

Joan Grenfell

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Community Hub Steering Group Report

The Group came into existence during 2022 initially meeting as a group of relevant members of the parish who had come together to discuss and formulate the fundraising strategy for the Whole Site Plan (now St Georges Community Hub). This group would form the new focus for the project on behalf of the PCC following the end of Covid restrictions as life returned to normal.

The group incorporated the support and contribution of Paul Baird, who had been appointed in July by the PCC as professional fundraising consultant to the church and the project, based on a phased staging of his time and associated fees.

The group first met in September (as Fundraising team), which then morphed into the initial Steering Group to take the scheme forward.

Three further meetings were held in October, November, and December which concentrated primarily on structure, support, publicity, and fundraising objectives/timelines.

In December the PCC approved the next stage of the fundraising consultant's fees, which in turn facilitated the Steering group to plan and undertake an initial pre-launch of the "Community Hub" in January 2023, and at time of writing to formally launch the whole scheme to both Parish and Community during the month of March.

The steering group will be the core committee to the sub-elements of the Project, Fundraising, Publicity, Eco, & Organ Restoration Groups, and report back to the PCC as the scheme progresses.

Derek Nicholson

*

Music Report

The past year has been an active time for the parish musicians, with ongoing musical building work after the disruption of Covid and a series of new innovations, including the recruitment of a Junior Choir. This informal choral group met for the first time after Easter 2022 and much progress and fun has been had, fuelled by excellent snacks! The choir sang its first Sunday morning service on Advent Sunday last year and will join us for Mothering Sunday 2023. My thanks to Hilary, Sue, Maggie, and Joan for their ongoing help and enthusiasm.

The Parish Choir has welcomed new several new members over the past 12 months, including (thanks to a grant from the Ouseley Trust, donors within the parish and the Northumbrian Organ Scholar Trust) two choral scholars and an organ scholar. The choir continues to enrich our Sunday morning worship with a wide variety of music and sings Choral Evensong on the third Sunday of the month, when we are able to welcome additional singers from across the city. A 'come and sing' performance of Stainer's Crucifixion in April attracted a good number of visitors, including a large group from Hexham Abbey, and we are looking forward to singing the work in Hexham on 2 April 2023. Other new initiatives included a full Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on 18 December. Tiger Lee (organ scholar) has been of invaluable assistance to me over the past year, conducting and playing as necessary whilst making excellent progress. I am hugely grateful to him and all the singers who give so willingly of their time and talent, as well as to those who go the extra mile to help behind the scenes with things like refreshments after Evensong. We are truly fortunate to enjoy such a high level of committed music making in the parish.

A series of organ recitals was launched in May 2022 and featured 13 very well-supported concerts by local organists and visitors from further afield. Another significant organ event in the autumn, a showing of Phantom of the Opera with a live soundtrack supplied by Darius Battiwalla, enabled us to launch the appeal to restore the parish's wonderful Lewis/Binns organ. The Organ Restoration Project has gathered considerable momentum following a large number of generous donations to the 'Sponsor a Pipe Campaign'. Many thanks to those of you who have contributed.

Plans for 2023 include another silent movie screening on 25 March. The organ recital series begins again on 5 May, and various other fundraising events are planned for after Easter. More information will be available on the church website.

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, Director of Music

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Bellringers' Report

Whereas we are mainly back to pre-lockdown ringing standards, we have not been able to replace the teenagers that we had learning the art in early 2000. This is a priority for us.

Risk assessments are in place as well as maintaining records and sanitiser in appropriate locations as a precaution when we change bells at the start of ringing.

There has often been a shortage of capable ringers to deliver ringing for service in the past but recently as the band progresses, we have at least 8 or 9 ringers for service and for practice night.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration and the Jesmond Festival

We rang to open the jubilee festival and to open and close the BFG community celebration on the church green. Chris Clarke, Jesmond Festival organiser, said we were an asset to the community as bellringers. We look forward to reprising this for the coronation in 2023.

Death and State Funeral of Elizabeth II

We had little time to attach the muffles to ring for the death of Queen Elizabeth as this was a formal request by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers to ring at a certain time the very next day. We all rallied round to assemble and ring half muffled bells as an announcement of her passing. The bells fell silent until the funeral day and then as the King was announced the muffles were taken off and the bells rang out in celebration, as they will for his coronation. All labour intensive but our band rose to the occasion.

Ringers

Commitment of our ringers and their help to keep the bells ringing when possible has been tremendous. A group of 5 of our ringers attended a 5 day ringing course in the Scottish

Highlands as well as visiting other towers to ring. This has increased their skill and added to the joyful sound we make. On Sunday morning after ringing at St George's, a group of ringers help and ring for service at Fenham church where numbers are also short.

Maintenance

The help of Tom, Stuart (Gosforth ringer), and Steve has lightened the responsibility of repairing stays. A stay is one of the safety devices which prevents an accident but can crack and break if bumped by the bell when ringing. We have needed a new rope which has been ordered as some of the ropes are frayed due to wear and tear. It is taking 6 months before we can receive and fit this.

Thank you to all of the congregation who listen for our bells we always remember you in our bell tower prayer said before ringing.

Lorna Taylor (Tower Secretary) and Geoff White (Tower Captain)

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Friends of St George's Report

In 2022 we can report a much more normal run of events. We set off the year with the very popular Quiz run by Sophie, Simon, and Jenny. This is always a well-attended, highly competitive evening with large numbers from both the Jesmond community and the congregation, enjoying not only the searching questions but also the traditional pie and peas supper.

In June we had both the Annual Dinner, a chance to dress up and meet with friends - and, if the sun is shining to start with drinks on the Green - followed the very next day with an entertaining and lively evening listening to the Newcastle Concert Band.

The autumn brought the Heritage Open Days, a wine tasting event, hosted by Sylvia and Chris and later in the month the Felling Male Voice Choir. In December we welcomed the Singers' Christmas Concert, fortified with Brent's delicious mulled wine, accompanied by mince pies from an undisclosed source. No advertising here!

We are always looking for new members as the Friends of St George's is anxious to expand its membership. Regarding this, I wrote an article which appeared in the April Lance and which I have circulated within the community. It says what I believe needs to be heard.

Barbara Peacock, Hon. Secretary of the Friends

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday 24th April 2022 in the Church Hall.

Apologies had been received by Hillary and David Cullingford, Barbara and Frederick Peacock, Sue Melbourne, Kay and Julian Plumley, Barbara and Frederick Peacock, Paul and Lorna Taylor.

	Annual Meeting of Parishioners
1.1	Appointment of Secretary Janet Wilson was proposed by Vera Friberg- Rogers and seconded by Jean Davies. Her appointment was approved.
1.2	Election of Churchwardens The Chair had received one nomination: Graham Hatt, proposed by Louise Chapman, seconded by Barbara Peacock Graham Hatt's appointment was approved. The Chairman expressed the hope that a fellow warden would step forward to support Graham.
	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
	The Chairman, Revd. Canon Brian Hurst intimated in respect of the agenda: - That eligibility to vote at the APCM was contingent on membership of the Electoral Roll - An additional item, the appointment of Sidespersons, 2.2.2. - An erratum: the chairperson's remarks, itemised as 2.10, should be 2.9
2.1	Consideration of Electoral Roll There were 197 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, a small increase; 91 resident within the bounds of the parish and 106 non-resident. The Electoral Roll report had been prepared by the Electoral Roll Officer, Margaret Baron, who explained that anyone present whose name was not on the Electoral Roll could visit the church website, download and complete the relevant form and hand it to the Parish Office. Their name would then be added to the Roll in time for the 2023 APCM. Margaret was thanked for her work.
2.2	1. Election of representatives of the laity to the PCC There were four vacancies for PCC. Eight nominations had been received. A paper ballot was distributed to eligible voters and the election held in accordance with Church Representation Rules. Votes were counted by the Wardens, Louise Chapman and Graham Hatt. The four successful candidates appointed were Hilary Cullingford, Jon G Davies, Ian Ness, Margaret Vane. Those who were elected and those who had also stood for election were thanked. Thanks were also expressed Paul Taylor and Sophie Leach who had demitted office 2. Appointment of Sidespersons The list compiled by Louise Chapman (Appendix 1) was read out, and all candidates approved.
2.3	Receiving Annual Reports from PCC, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod 2021 PCC Report The report on the activities of the PCC over the last year was received. The list of supported charities was announced (Appendix 2) Churchwardens Report The meeting received the Churchwardens Report. Deanery Synod Report

	The meeting received the report of the Deanery Synod, which comprised representatives of the laity forming a link with the clergy. An acting Bishop was currently in post. Izzy McDonald Booth, Kay Plumley and Mike Delahunt were thanked for their work following the retirement.
2.4	Annual Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts The Treasurer, Mike L Ranson, Chartered Accountant, was welcomed to the meeting and thanked by the vicar for choosing to serve St George's with his time and talents in this position. The accounts for 2021 were received. The treasurer highlighted key points: • Several funds were restricted. Reserve restricted funds for the maintenance of the youth leader was substantial and held sufficient resource that position to carry on for some time. Too many restricted funds can result in accumulating money which is difficult to spend • A huge amount of money had been raised for the Tower repairs. The friend of St George's had made a very generous donation. Thanks were extended to Mike de la Hunt who had been instrumental in much fundraising. • Trading income was down, but it was hoped that the forthcoming Spring Fete would boost funds, along with other initiatives from the fundraising committee • Unrestricted reserves have been in deficit for two consecutive years – this year's shortfall was £11,417. The church should have reserves of around £45,000 and PCC would work to restore the reserves fund. • pages 9 in 10 (the accounting policies) are by convention not circulated with the accounts – although of course these financial controls are vital to the probity of the PCC • Gratitude was expressed to John Oswald our expert independent examiner. In ensuing discussion, the magnitude of the Parish Share was queried (£113,000), as it was thought to be larger than that of a close by parish with a larger Electoral Roll. Fundraising initiatives might be entered into with more enthusiasm were our Parish Share smaller. The Treasurer explained that a reduction had been negotiated to £100,000, but that the PCC has committed to make good the shortfall through additional initiatives. While the Parish Share is substantial, we are one of the wealthiest parishes in the diocese. The Treasurer was thanked for his achievements. Caroline Field who had given many years of service in the role and continued to support some financial matters was also recognised for the magnitude of her contribution to St Georges.
2.5	Appointment of Independent Examiner John Oswald of Stephenson Coates was proposed to continue in the position of Independent Examiner by the Treasurer and seconded by Izzy Macdonald-Booth. John was thanked for his help across the year and during the Treasurer transition.
2.6	Safeguarding report and Affirmation of Safeguarding Policy, The meeting received a brief report and reaffirmed the Safeguarding policy.
2.7	Committee and group reports were considered: 1. Children and Young People 2. ECO group / Environmental policy The meeting reaffirmed the adoption of the Environmental Policy. 3. Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) groups There was a brief update from Izzy Macdonald-Booth on behalf of one of the LYCIG groups, the Faith and Nurture Group, on the national Church's Living In Love and Faith initiative in respect of marriage, gender and sexuality. Feedback from local groups is due by the end of April and the house of Bishops will deliberate upon the findings in the summer and autumn with an update

	expected in July 2022 at General Synod. St George's has held remote Living In Love and Faith groups, and the first face-to-face sessions are to be announced imminently. 4. Anna Chaplain report It was observed that Joan Grenfell and Anna Chaplin is a great exemplar of living in love and faith within the community and she was thanked for raising the profile of St George's throughout the neighbourhood. 5. Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood report A comment from the floor on the relative lack of free text responses was noted. 6. Bellringers' report Thanks was extended to Geoff White and Lorna Taylor for their ongoing commitment 7. Friends of St George's Report The huge contribution of the friends to the tower repairs had earlier been acknowledged – the PCC remains very grateful for the Friends' support. The Chair noted that the APCM papers represented a huge amount of work and witness throughout 2021, and all done for the love of God.
2.8	Reaffirmation of the inclusive church statement The meeting was happy to reaffirm the Statement of Inclusive Church as not merely a form of word but as something we all believe in.
2.9	Chairperson's remarks The context of this meeting, and what we have faced as a nation, is a time of unparalleled turmoil. In a spirit of thankfulness we gather in this format for the first time in two years. It has been a difficult two years from which we should not shy away. Looking to the future, we cannot say we are out of the woods yet. We may have to live with the Covid virus for five or six more years. So those wishing for a relaunch may be disappointed. Yes we have had Easter, yes, we look forward soon to the Spring Fete and the Big Friendly Jubilee Gathering - so there may be a 'big bang' - but it will be a cautious big bang. We still live in a world of provisionality, which limits planning. At a practical level, the clergy team are covering each other's activities, not just for services and funerals, but also the wider impact across the Deanery and indeed the Diocese as shown by the recent secondment of our curate Stephanie Keates. Against this background, we offer thanks to the Wardens, starting with Mike de la Hunt, who have all put a huge amount of work into the implementation of Covid safe practices, enabling us to worship as safely as we can. Joan, who heads up Pastoral Visiting has kept links going through phone calls, What'sApp and Zoom. The Zoom Friday coffee initiative, thanks to the work of Bryan Vernon, is hugely appreciated, has kept us all as a community together, and still continues on a monthly basis. Catherine Laidler is thanked for her PCC secretarial work and the continuity she offered through in PCC secretary transition. As already noted, we cannot thank Caroline Field enough. Louise Chapman steps down now as churchwarden. This has been a difficult time - and so her going the extra mile was especially appreciated. We thank the choir for leading praise, under Helen Young's guidance initially, and the visiting organists – Stefan and Paul Ritchie. They managed to lift up our spirits after times without music. What a joy it has been to welcome Drew. The PCC is very aware that music at St George's is about mission and it is a great joy to hear him play and see him encourage the Choir – quite literally – to new heights.

	Our thanks are also due to Jonathan in the Parish Office, who picks up so many different issues. We are all especially grateful to many others for support in the difficult times through 2021 – the bell ringers, flower arrangers, cleaners, Tuesday group – and those independent people who slip in and out to cut grass and pick up litter. Those who make cheese scones on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Not to mention the continuing presence of Barbara Peacock, without whom so many aspects of life - and my life - at St George's would be impossible. Thus - there is much to be thankful for. The road to recovery from Covid will, however, be long and slow, so we need to be patient, and patient with each other. In respect of the Parish Share it is not for the Vicar to defend, because that is where the Vicar's stipend comes from. St George's does have a reputation of generosity. In addition to other charitable giving, we normally support the Diocese, which in turn supports the Church of England's position that there should be a priestly presence in every place within the Diocese. This is not to say that this is necessarily £113,000 but we are mindful of the Lord's words that "of those to whom much is given, much will be required". Indeed, it is our duty and our joy to be part of the wider Church of England. In respect of the Whole Site Plan, the PCC has consistently approved and endorsed the plans before it. The Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood initiative has seen us as a hub for this community. The plans are expensive, but we aim to be a church for the 21st and the 22nd Century. The PCC has not, as some have suggested, been at a standstill, but has been undertaking a process of clarification. The PCC needs now to move quickly to fundraising and to approach grant giving bodies and to test the water to define the optimum strategy. These are daunting tasks and some may have been inhibited by circumstances even to test the water. David, Derek and Graham have done literal spadework on the plans. Now the PCC and the congregation as a whole need to do some real spadework. I say all this in the context of the pandemic and what is going on in the United Kingdom. The threat to peace in Europe that none of us expected to see. So whatever our niggles, we put them in the context of living through pandemics and witnessing preparation for war - a war that we pray does not spill into wider Europe.
2.10	Consideration of other matters of parochial or general church interest Jean Davies drew attention to a paper which had been placed on some of the hall seats, asking that the Church Council consider alternatives to its agreed plans; the fact that its authors were among those elected to the Parochial Church Council indicated support from some of those present. The Vicar agreed that PCC membership would give both the opportunity to share views in due course. Joan Grenfell updated the meeting on the activities for the Big Friendly Gathering on Saturday 4 June 2022 to mark HM the Queen's platinum Jubilee; she then proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar. Hazel Jones Lee reminded those present on the requirements for the Spring Fete 07 05 22. Graham Hatt updated on the collapsed noticeboard whose replacement had been identified, costed and designed and for which order placement was imminent. The meeting closed in prayer.

Signed: Revd Canon Brian Hurst (Chair)_____

Treasurer's Report

Total unrestricted income for the year was £227,913, compared with £158,553 in 2021. At face value this represents a marked improvement, although the main contributor to this increase was a very welcome substantial legacy of £28,380, plus sizeable grants and insurance claims that were expended on additional costs, particularly relating to replacing the boiler and installing insulation of the Church Hall, plus replacement of the notice board on the Green destroyed by fierce winds. The investment in the boiler and insulation in the Church Hall are already showing savings in energy consumption that partially offset increases in prices.

Planned Giving, which is so important to continuing prosperity of the Church, decreased slightly again, although collections received from services improved (2022: £7,235; 2021: £2,350) and income from trading activities improved substantially (2022: £53,191; 2021: £30,860). The trading income included £21,179 (2021: £22,652) from the rental of our properties, Tower House and Close House, the reduction reflecting a short vacancy after the Curate moved out of Close House. After two years of being severely affected by the National Lockdown brought about by Covid-19, restoration of income from other activities including the summer fete, fundraising and Church Hall letting was very welcome although, on the other hand, the Grant of £12,689 received in 2021 from Newcastle City Council in respect of Covid-19 relief did not continue.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £204,686 compared with £169,970 in the previous year; as mentioned above, some of these additional costs, particularly for Church Hall maintenance and property upkeep, were funded by income from grants and an insurance claim. Church and Church Hall maintenance costs were adversely affected by additional costs for heating and insurance, and these are likely to remain at a high level. Additionally, the increased costs for the Director of Music, Organ and Choir during the year were not matched by donations received. The PCC took steps to alleviate continuing deficits by reducing the payment of the Parish Share to the Diocese by £13,542 but at £100,000 this still represents a sizeable payment which the PCC is keeping under review.

As a result of these many factors there was a net surplus of £22,043 on unrestricted funds, compared to a deficit of £11,417 in 2021. This disguises the many problems that persist and were it not for the most generous legacy received, there would have been an underlying deficit on the activities of the Church for the year of £6,337 which, whilst representing some improvement, is not a situation that can be allowed to continue and must be reversed.

The PCC held free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets) of £110,689 at 31 December 2022 (2021: £92,021), including the designated buildings works fund of £50,247. Whilst free reserves for general use at 31 December 2022 stood at £60,442, these included the legacy income that the PCC intends to earmark for specific projects, so the underlying reserves amount to £32,062, which is well below the amount required under the PCC's Reserves Policy that aims to hold free reserves for general use at a minimum level of

around £45,000. Accordingly, PCC will endeavour to return to surplus in 2023, and subsequent years.

As reported in the last Annual Report, work on the Church Tower was completed in 2021. Finalisation of the costs and recovery of VAT has been better than anticipated, resulting in an increase in the Restricted Fabric Fund to £36,637. The Organ Restoration project was launched towards the end of the year and donations and the sponsor a pipe initiative resulted in £7,794 being raised by the end of the year.

The other significant restricted fund relates to the Family & Youth Leader project. The Family and Youth Leader left before the end of the year and no further charitable foundation grants will be received until a replacement is found. A balance of £14,776 remains available to fund this project and there is an undertaking to restore the next tranche of grant funding to maintain this project if a new Family & Youth Leader were to be appointed before August 2023.

The only significant movement in the endowment fund in the year was a decrease in valuation of £8,722, reflecting market conditions.

Since the year end, Church income, particularly in the areas of hall lettings and service collections are slowly improving. The unwelcome impact on our reserves of declining income over several years continues, however, which the PCC is committed to restore in ensuing years. In the short term, reduced payments of our Parish Share are making a contribution, which the PCC and the diocese are keeping under review and the PCC will strive to maintain it at an affordable level.

Mike Ranson, Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

16 April 2023

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1 (a)	154,900	21,456	-	176,356	213,472
Other trading activities	1 (b)	53,191	80	-	53,271	43,549
Investments	1 (c)	1,721	12	1,944	3,677	2,603
Church activities	1 (d)	15,014	-	-	15,014	7,317
Other income	1 (e)	3,087	18,498	-	21,585	-
TOTAL INCOME		227,913	40,046	1,944	269,903	266,941
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	2 (b)	1,184	-	-	1,184	180
Church activities	2 (a)	204,686	31,959	1,944	238,589	302,864
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		205,870	31,959	1,944	239,773	303,044
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		22,043	8,087	-	30,130	(36,103)
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		(3,375)	-	(8,722)	(12,097)	13,390
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		18,668	8,087	(8,722)	18,003	(22,713)
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS						
		-	-	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2022		953,057	59,477	74,100	1,086,634	1,109,347
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2022		971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667	1,109,347

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	Note	2022	2021
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4 (a)	863,374	864,981
Investments	4 (b)	<u>88,527</u>	<u>100,624</u>
		951,901	965,605
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	9,842	7,439
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>147,928</u>	<u>128,419</u>
		157,770	135,858
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	5,004	14,829
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		152,766	121,029
NET ASSETS			
		1,104,667	1,086,634
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	971,725	953,057
Restricted	8,9	67,564	59,477
Endowment	8,9	<u>65,378</u>	<u>74,100</u>
		1,104,667	1,086,634

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 16 April 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1 INCOME

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
1(a)	Donations and legacies					
	Planned Giving:					
	Gift Aid donations	80,128	-	-	80,128	81,078
	Tax recoverable	22,328	1,064	-	23,392	21,052
	Collections (open plate) at all services	7,235	1,813	-	9,048	2,350
	Sundry donations	5,060	11,579	-	16,639	13,882
	Legacies	28,380	-	-	28,380	-
	Grants	11,769	7,000	-	18,769	95,110
		154,900	21,456	-	176,356	213,472
1(b)	Other trading activities					
	Church hall letting	15,100	-	-	15,100	2,078
	Church hire	688	-	-	688	1,225
	Property rental income	21,179	-	-	21,179	22,652
	Fetes and other fund-raising events	16,224	80	-	16,304	4,905
	Government Covid grants	-	-	-	-	12,689
		53,191	80	-	53,271	43,549
1(c)	Investments					
	Dividends	845	-	1,944	2,789	2,530
	Interest	876	12	-	888	73
		1,721	12	1,944	3,677	2,603
1(d)	Church activities					
	Fees	11,326	-	-	11,326	6,125
	Youth trip	2,545	-	-	2,545	-
	Magazines	1,143	-	-	1,143	1,192
		15,014	-	-	15,014	7,317
1(e)	Other income					
	VAT grants	643	17,726	-	18,369	-
	Insurance claim	2,123	-	-	2,123	-
	Sundry	321	772	-	1,093	-
		3,087	18,498	-	21,585	-
	TOTAL INCOME	227,913	40,046	1,944	269,903	266,941

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(continued)

2 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2022	Total Funds 2021
2 (a) Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Missions and other Church Societies	-	-	-	-	2,000
Charitable donations	-	972	-	972	-
	-	972	-	972	2,000
Ministry:					
Parish Share	100,000	-	-	100,000	113,542
Clergy expenses	3,125	-	-	3,125	1,927
Clergy housing expenses	6,356	-	-	6,356	5,092
Fees paid to diocese	5,827	-	-	5,827	2,580
Church – running expenses	11,564	-	-	11,564	11,765
Church maintenance	2,775	2,509	-	5,284	109,237
Upkeep of services	2,029	-	-	2,029	1,047
Parish magazine and publicity	353	170	-	523	433
Church Hall running costs	11,013	-	-	11,013	6,154
Church Hall maintenance	15,802	-	-	15,802	453
Other property upkeep	8,524	-	-	8,524	1,794
Whole site plan development	5,763	301	1,944	8,008	2,064
Flowers	-	238	-	238	319
Asset depreciation	438	1,169	-	1,607	1,567
Others	779	1,735	-	2,514	92
Organ and choir	9,909	5,284	-	15,193	6,687
Children and young people	1,247	19,581	-	20,828	20,394
Printing, stationery and office costs	5,148	-	-	5,148	3,518
Office administration	11,666	-	-	11,666	10,642
Bank charges	438	-	-	438	33
Professional fees	342	-	-	342	-
Independent examiner's fees, including payroll	1,588	-	-	1,588	1,524
Total Church activities	204,686	31,959	1,944	238,589	302,864
2 (b) Raising funds					
Costs of fetes and other fund raising activities	1,184	-	-	1,184	180
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	205,870	31,959	1,944	239,773	303,044

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(continued)

3	STAFF COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
	Wages and salaries	36,239	31,465
	Pension costs	887	771
		37,126	32,236

During the year the PCC employed an administrator, a Family & Youth Leader and a director of music.

4 **FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC**

4 (a)	Tangible fixed assets	<u>Freehold land and buildings</u> £	<u>Plant and office equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
	COST OR VALUATION			
	At 1 January 2022	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
	Additions	-	-	-
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2022	300,751	30,253	331,004
	Charge in year	-	1,607	1,607
	Disposals	-	-	-
	At 31 December 2022	300,751	31,860	332,611
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2022	861,036	2,338	863,374
	At 31 December 2021	861,036	3,945	864,981

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The latest available valuation for insurance purposes amounted to £3,599,000.

4 (b)	Investments	2022 £	2021 £
	At market valuation:		
	3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	65,378	74,100
	14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	23,149	26,524
		88,527	100,624

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2022 is £51,916 (2021: £51,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2022	100,624
Purchases	-
Revaluation of investments	<u>(12,097)</u>
At 31 December 2022	88,527

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fixed Assets	-	886,523	-	65,378	951,901
Current Assets	65,446	24,760	67,564	-	157,770
Current liabilities	(5,004)	-	-	-	(5,004)
	60,442	911,283	67,564	65,378	1,104,667

6 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Gift aid recoverable	5,412	4,347
Prepayments and accrued income	4,430	3,092
	9,842	7,439

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022 £	2021 £
Creditors for goods and services	1,668	1,070
Accruals and deferred income	3,336	13,759
	5,004	14,829

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	50,247	-	-	50,247
General fund	60,442	-	-	60,442
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,389	-	1,389
Donations restricted by donor – access to capital and interest	-	66,175	-	66,175
Donations restricted by donor – access to interest only	-	-	65,378	65,378
	971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

9 (a) Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2022 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	58,540	845	(5,763)	-	(3,375)	50,247
General	33,481	227,068	(200,107)	-	-	60,442
Total Unrestricted funds	953,057	227,913	(205,870)	-	(3,375)	971,725

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

9 (b) Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2022 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources		Balance 31 December 2022 £
			Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Bell Ringers fund	1,737	-	80	(428)	1,389
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	17,234	-	22,738	(3,335)	36,637
Flowers	671	-	594	(238)	1,027
Family & Youth leader fund	34,087	-	270	(19,581)	14,776
Choral Scholarships	925	-	2,750	(1,375)	2,300
Director of Music	1,182	-	2,326	(3,508)	-
Singing Group	2,360	-	1,207	(1,650)	1,917
Music	529	-	1,250	(506)	1,273
Organ Restoration project	-	-	7,859	(65)	7,794
Other donations - garden of remembrance	301	-	-	(301)	-
Other grants and donations	331	-	972	(972)	331
Total Restricted funds	59,477	-	40,046	(31,959)	67,564

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader and Director of Music funds are sums raised to support the work of those employees.

The Singing Group fund was donated by Jesmond Dementia Action Alliance, to fund a further 40 sessions of the singing group they established.

The Organ Restoration project relates to the full restoration of the St George's organ which was built in 1887

The other funds have similarly been restricted by donors so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS *(continued)*

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2022 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	74,100	1,944	(1,944)	-	(8,722)	65,378

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, Ian Ness was paid £5,000 for professional services in connection with Tower repair work. Except for this and clergy expenses, there were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2022.

Accounts

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2021

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

Incumbent:

Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

PCC Address:

The Parish Office
St. George's Close
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 2TF

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank plc
High Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1JQ

Virgin Money plc
1 The Gosforth Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1JZ

Independent examiner:

John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of St George is bounded by Clayton Road, Jesmond Dene Road, The Dene (Ouseburn), Osborne Road and St George's Terrace.

AIMS OF THE PCC

The PCC is required by law to "co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

CHARITABLE STATUS

The PCC is a charitable body and was registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 17 November 2009 (charity number 1132758). The PCC had previously been excepted from registering. As a charitable body, it is able to claim refunds on Gift Aid contributions from HM Revenue & Customs.

MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Following the Annual Parochial Meeting in April 2021, the following served on the PCC:

Ex-officio:	The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst	
	The Rev'd Stephanie Keates	
	The Rev'd Derek Avery	
	The Rev'd Ollie Dempsey (from December 2021)	
	Mrs Joan Grenfell	Lay Reader
	Mrs Louise Chapman	Churchwarden
	Mr Graham Hatt	Churchwarden
	Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth	

Deanery Synod:	Mrs Kay Plumley
	Mr Mike de la Hunt

Elected Members:	Mrs Caroline Field (to September 2021)	Treasurer
	Mr Michael Ranson (from September 2021)	Treasurer
	Mr Donald Gaze	
	Dr Tom Klenka	
	Mrs Sophie Leach	
	Mr Paul Taylor	
	Mrs Margaret Vane	
	Mrs Sue Vernon	

In attendance:	Miss Catherine Laidler (to September 2021)	Secretary
	Mrs Janet Wilson (from September 2021)	Secretary

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

At the Annual Parochial Meeting of April 2021 it was declared that 192 names were entered on the Electoral Roll.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged.

2021 was, once again, a year dominated by the impact of the pandemic – a year in which we moved away from the state of emergency to quietly accommodating and accepting our changed routines, caused by the Coronavirus.

In church, this was seen especially in our worship, with, for example, Ash Wednesday moving to a “Zoom” gathering. Our observation of Lent, throughout which we were joined and inspired by Canon Peter Dobson, who preached each week on the theme Grit to Glory, was also hosted on Zoom. Stephanie Keates, our “senior curate”, led our thoughts throughout Holy Week, again on Zoom, with themes from the Gospels: perfume, Greeks, betrayal, feet, trial and resurrection.

I know how much people appreciated gathering together on Zoom, during these early months of 2021, as a richer and more engaging form of worship and fellowship than the simple, pre-recorded services that we had been offering. But what a joy to be back into church to celebrate the Eucharist on Easter Day! Since early summer we have offered livestreaming of our worship, which allows those not able to be with us in person to continue to be a part of our worshipping community.

It is not all about numbers, but increasingly I sense people are regaining confidence in coming back to church. Our average adult attendance in October was 94 (though one week we had a high number with the presence of our Bishop, just a few weeks before she retired). On Easter Day we had 102 worshippers. With self-imposed restrictions, 317 people were at a service in St George’s on Christmas Eve and 93 joined us on Christmas Day. These numbers are well down on normal years, but many people had locked themselves down in order to be with family safely on Christmas Day. It was wonderful to see the church filled by both the Royal Grammar School and Newcastle High School for Girls, back in St George’s for their Carol Services.

Perhaps the great highlight of our year was the appointment of Drew Cantrill-Fenwick as our new Director of Music. Drew joined us in the autumn and has given a real lift to our worship, and although he has had to work within various restrictions (not least the choir having to put masks on and off) he has already helped choir members to regain their confidence, recruited an Organ Scholar (Tiger Li, whom we welcomed at the beginning of November), and set some promising things in motion for the coming (2022) year.

The acronym of the year was KYCKYN. Following a series of meetings with Canon John Sadler (see last year’s report), thinking about funding for the various building projects, the PCC worked with Together Newcastle, now called Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed, on a process of consultation with the congregation, wider community and focussed conversations (Know Your Church Know Your Neighbourhood). Some clear things emerged from this process. On the one hand, as a congregation we want to offer our God-given resources to the community and to improve our facilities. On the other, the wider community of Jesmond holds us in good standing and believes we would be a good “community hub” for building up community. This process helps create a vision for our buildings and strengthens our hand as we seek to raise money for important work.

It was lovely to welcome Ollie Dempsey “back” to St George’s, and to St Hilda’s. Ollie had been ordained, in St George’s as it happens, at Petertide, and the move of his incumbent meant a different benefice needed to be found for Ollie to finish his training. Ollie has already begun to contribute to our life, and we are richly blessed by our three Assistant Curates (Stephanie Keates, Derek Avery and Ollie Dempsey) as well as our Reader and Anna Chaplain, Joan Grenfell.

We were fortunate to have Michael Baldwin, an ordinand, on placement with us during the summer – his arrival was cut short because of the virus, however those who heard him preaching or had conversations with him, and connected to him through zoom meetings, will continue to hold him in our prayers as he completes his training for ordination.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR *(continued)*

A quiet farewell in the autumn was given to Helen Young, who herself headed off on a long placement in Tynemouth as part of her training for ordination. Helen is due to be ordained deacon this coming Petertide and we hold her and her family in our prayers as they prepare to move to Balkwell, where Helen will serve the benefice of St John's and St Peter's this coming summer.

Another high point of the year was the Christmas Mini-market, which was our first real opportunity to gather as a community outside of worship and to plug some of the gap in income because of our inability to fund raise throughout the year and loss of hall hire income. Astonishingly around £4,250 was raised, thanks in no small part to the raffle and the hard work of so many people.

All in all, it has been another incredibly difficult year. Yet, unlike last year, this has not been a year "on hold"; as you will see throughout this Report and these Accounts, much has happened in a quiet and under the radar way. Thanks, as always, go to our churchwardens, perhaps especially to Louise Chapman who went the extra year because of the pandemic, for their ministry to and encouragement of us all. A mention too of our Parish Secretary, Jonathan Richards, who, again quietly and without fuss, gets things done and keeps the plates spinning. Finally, thanks to all those who through their own various ministries have deepened our mission, enriched our worship, and held our common life together throughout the year.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Total unrestricted income for the year was £158,553, compared with £159,195 in 2020. Income from unrestricted donations and legacies declined to £107,098 compared with £111,731 in 2020, mainly as a result in a decrease in Planned Giving, which is so important to continuing prosperity of the Church. Collections received from services remained at a low level (2021: £2,350; 2020: £2,764) as was income from trading activities (2021: £30,860; 2020: £33,021). This trading income included £22,652 (2020: £22,977) from the rental of our properties, Tower House and Close House but other activities continued to be severely affected by National Lockdown brought about by Covid-19, causing the non-permission of the summer fete, fundraising activities and Church Hall letting. This was only alleviated at the end of the year by the great success of the Christmas Fayre and a very welcome Grant of £12,689 (2020: £5,000) received earlier in the year from Newcastle City Council in respect of Covid-19 relief.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £169,970 compared with £174,478 in the previous year; this decrease reflects the the result of Covid-19 reducing expenses in the year and careful control of costs, wherever possible. One cost that remained constant was payment of the Parish Share of £113,542, unchanged from the previous year.

The resulting net deficit on unrestricted funds was £11,417 (2020: £15,283 deficit) which, whilst representing some improvement, is not a situation that can be allowed to continue and must be reversed.

The PCC held free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets) of £91,583 at 31 December 2021 (2020: £98,485), including the designated buildings works fund of £58,540. Free reserves for general use at 31 December 2021 were £33,043, another significant decrease of £8,435 from the previous year end. The PCC's Reserves Policy is to aim to hold free reserves for general use of around £45,000, so the PCC will endeavour to return to surplus in 2022, and subsequent years.

As reported in the last Annual Report, the Church Tower required significant repairs and fundraising. The work was completed in the year at a cost of around £108,000, that is still to be finalised, and the PCC were pleased to receive substantial grants towards the cost from charitable foundations plus a huge donation of £33,000 from the Friends of St George's.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021
(continued)**

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (continued)

The other significant movement in the restricted funds in the year was £31,250 received to support the Family & Youth Leader project, of which £25,000 was received through charitable foundation grants, with the remainder through the generosity of the congregation. This has provided sufficient resources to maintain the project through 2022, and beyond.

There was no significant movement in the endowment fund in the year, other than an increase in valuation of £9,273.

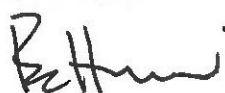
Since the year end, the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have continued to impact Church income, particularly in the areas of hall lettings and service collections. As a result there is continuing unwelcome impact on our reserves, which the PCC has resolved to restore in ensuing years. In the short term, there has been agreement to reduce payments of our Parish Share, although an undertaking has been given to the diocese that the PCC will strive to maintain it at the level paid over the last two years.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The PCC has identified risks and taken steps to mitigate them:

- Risks to buildings and contents are insured.
- Public liability risks are insured.
- A safeguarding policy is in place, including vetting procedures.
- The fire safety risk has been assessed. Detection and firefighting equipment is maintained to current standards. An evacuation policy is in place with designated responsibilities.
- Regular financial reports are reviewed by the PCC and variations from budget considered.

Approved by the members of the PCC on 3 April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the PCC are required by the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- Use the going concern basis of accounting unless they intend to liquidate the PCC or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC on 3 April 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2021, which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

3 April 2022

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1 (a)	107,098	106,374	-	213,472	136,528
Other trading activities	1 (b)	43,549	-	-	43,549	38,021
Investments	1 (c)	714	8	1,881	2,603	2,626
Church activities	1 (d)	7,192	125	-	7,317	8,654
TOTAL INCOME		158,553	106,507	1,881	266,941	185,829
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	2 (b)	180	-	-	180	144
Church activities	2 (a)	169,790	131,193	1,881	302,864	179,143
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		169,970	131,193	1,881	303,044	179,287
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(11,417)	(24,686)	-	(36,103)	6,542
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		4,117	-	9,273	13,390	1,607
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(7,300)	(24,686)	9,273	(22,713)	8,149
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2021		960,357	84,163	64,827	1,109,347	1,101,198
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2021		953,057	59,477	74,100	1,086,634	1,109,347

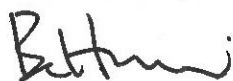
**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021	2020
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4 (a)	864,981	861,872
Investments	4 (b)	<u>100,624</u>	<u>87,234</u>
		965,605	949,106
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	7,439	11,210
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>128,419</u>	<u>158,207</u>
		135,858	169,417
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	14,829	9,176
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		121,029	160,241
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,086,634</u>	<u>1,109,347</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	953,057	960,357
Restricted	8,9	59,477	84,163
Endowment	8,9	<u>74,100</u>	<u>64,827</u>
		1,086,634	1,109,347

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 3 April 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

Going concern

The members of the PCC have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the PCC is a going concern.

After making reasonable enquiries, the members of the PCC have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members. Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established. Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment and where considered appropriate, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Donations and legacies

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Donations and Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Other trading activities

Income received from the hire of Church and Church hall is recognised when the service has been performed.

Rental income from the letting of church houses is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the rental period.

Funds raised by the annual fete, jumble sales and other similar events are accounted for gross.

Government grants – those relating to income are recognised using on a systematic basis over the periods in which the PCC recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate.

Investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Church activities

Sales of the church magazine are accounted for gross.

Other income

Insurance claim income is recognised when received, and accounted for gross.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

Volunteer help

The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the financial statements.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments to market value at 31 December.

Expenditure

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid quota at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings are stated at values estimated for insurance purposes in 2007, less depreciation charged in the accounts to 31 December 2012. No depreciation has been charged in the accounts to 31 December 2021, as the members of the PCC consider that any such amount would be immaterial in view of the property maintenance programme in place and the high residual values of the properties. An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

Plant and office equipment

Plant and office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectible. Short term deposits represent cash held on deposit at the bank. Cash at bank and in hand represents bank balances at close of business on 31 December.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

1 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
1(a) Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	81,078	-	-	81,078	84,505
Tax recoverable	19,122	1,930	-	21,052	22,296
Collections (open plate) at all services	2,350	-	-	2,350	2,764
Sundry donations	4,548	9,334	-	13,882	9,963
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-
Grants from charitable foundations	-	95,110	-	95,110	17,000
	107,098	106,374	-	213,472	136,528
1(b) Other trading activities					
Church hall letting	2,078	-	-	2,078	4,181
Church hire	1,225	-	-	1,225	375
Property rental income	22,652	-	-	22,652	22,977
Fetes and other fund-raising events	4,905	-	-	4,905	5,488
Government grants	12,689	-	-	12,689	5,000
	43,549	-	-	43,549	38,021
1(c) Investments					
Dividends	649	-	1,881	2,530	2,288
Interest	65	8	-	73	338
	714	8	1,881	2,603	2,626
1(d) Church activities					
Fees	6,000	125	-	6,125	7,454
Magazines	1,192	-	-	1,192	1,200
	7,192	125	-	7,317	8,654
TOTAL INCOME	158,553	106,507	1,881	266,941	185,829

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

2 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
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2 (a) Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Missions and other Church Societies	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	-
	2,000	-	-	2,000	2,000
Ministry:					
Parish Share	113,542	-	-	113,542	113,542
Clergy expenses	1,927	-	-	1,927	1,965
Clergy housing expenses	5,092	-	-	5,092	4,152
Fees paid to diocese	2,580	-	-	2,580	4,003
Church – running expenses	11,765	-	-	11,765	11,676
Church maintenance	169	107,187	1,881	109,237	2,141
Upkeep of services	1,047	-	-	1,047	830
Parish magazine and publicity	433	-	-	433	772
Church Hall running costs	6,154	-	-	6,154	5,859
Church Hall maintenance	453	-	-	453	1,202
Other property upkeep	1,744	50	-	1,794	2,116
Professional fees – whole site plan	2,064	-	-	2,064	5,762
Flowers	-	319	-	319	508
Asset depreciation	398	1,169	-	1,567	398
Others	92	-	-	92	270
Organ and choir	4,509	2,178	-	6,687	4,518
Children and young people	104	20,290	-	20,394	2,286
Printing, stationery and office costs	3,518	-	-	3,518	3,495
Office administration	10,642	-	-	10,642	9,673
Bank charges	33	-	-	33	213
Independent examiner's fees, including payroll	1,524	-	-	1,524	1,762
Total Church activities	169,790	131,193	1,881	302,864	179,143
2 (b) Raising funds					
Costs of fetes and other fund raising activities	180	-	-	180	144
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	169,970	131,193	1,881	303,044	179,287

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

3	STAFF COSTS	2021 £	2020 £
	Wages and salaries	31,465	12,795
	Pension costs	771	38
		32,236	12,833

During the year the PCC employed an administrator, a Family & Youth Leader and a director of music.

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

4 (a)	Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and office equipment £	Total £
	COST OR VALUATION			
	At 1 January 2021	1,161,787	29,522	1,191,309
	Additions	-	4,676	4,676
	Disposals	-	-	-
		1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
	At 31 December 2021			
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2021	300,751	28,686	329,437
	Charge in year	-	1,567	1,567
	Disposals	-	-	-
		300,751	30,253	331,004
	At 31 December 2021			
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2021	861,036	3,945	864,981
		861,036	836	861,872
	At 31 December 2020			

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The equivalent insured values in 2021 amounted to £3,599,000.

4 (b) Investments

At market valuation:	2021 £	2020 £
3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	74,100	64,827
14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	26,524	22,407
	100,624	87,234

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2021 is £51,916 (2020: £51,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2021	87,234
Purchases	-
Revaluation of investments	13,390
	100,624
At 31 December 2021	

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fixed Assets	438	891,067	-	74,100	965,605
Current Assets	39,239	28,509	68,110	-	135,858
Current liabilities	(6,196)	-	(8,633)	-	(14,829)
	33,481	919,576	59,477	74,100	1,086,634

6 DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Gift aid recoverable	4,347	3,933
Prepayments and accrued income	3,092	7,277
	7,439	11,210

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Creditors for goods and services	1,070	3,020
Accruals and deferred income	13,759	6,156
	14,829	9,176

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	58,540	-	-	58,540
General fund	33,481	-	-	33,481
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,737	-	1,737
Donations restricted by donor – access to capital and interest	-	57,740	-	57,740
Donations restricted by donor – access to interest only	-	-	74,100	74,100
	953,057	59,477	74,100	1,086,634

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

9 (a) Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	57,007	649	(3,233)	-	4,117	58,540
General	42,314	157,904	(166,737)	-	-	33,481
Total Unrestricted funds	960,357	158,553	(169,970)	-	4,117	953,057

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

9 (b) Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources Incoming £	Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Bell Ringers fund	1,822	-	125	(210)	1,737
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	57,103	-	68,487	(108,356)	17,234
Flowers	312	-	678	(319)	671
Family & Youth leader fund	23,127	-	31,250	(20,290)	34,087
Choral Scholarships	925	-	-	-	925
Director of Music	-	-	2,932	(1,750)	1,182
Singing Group	-	-	2,360	-	2,360
Music	122	-	625	(218)	529
Other donations - garden of remembrance	301	-	50	(50)	301
Other grants and donations	331	-	-	-	331
Total Restricted funds	84,163	-	106,507	(131,193)	59,477

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader and Director of Music funds are sums raised to support the work of those employees.

The Singing Group fund was donated by Jesmond Dementia Action Alliance, to fund a further 40 sessions of the singing group they established.

The other funds have similarly been restricted by donors so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2021 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	64,827	1,881	(1,881)	-	9,273	74,100

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Except for clergy expenses, there were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2021.

Accounts

Charity number: 1132758

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 DECEMBER 2020

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

Incumbent: Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

PCC Address: The Parish Office
St. George's Close
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 2TF

Bankers: Lloyds Bank plc
High Street
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1JQ

Virgin Money plc
1 The Gosforth Centre
Gosforth
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE3 1JZ

Independent examiner: John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Parish of St George is bounded by Clayton Road, Jesmond Dene Road, The Dene (Ouseburn), Osborne Road and St George's Terrace.

AIMS OF THE PCC

The PCC is required by law to "co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

A worshipping community: inclusive, nurturing, engaged.

The year 2020, to which this annual report relates, is the year we all wished had not happened; it has indeed been an extraordinary year with the Coronavirus pandemic impacting the whole of life.

None the less, the ministry of St George's, Jesmond has continued – often under the radar, unseen and unnoticed. I am therefore immensely grateful for the support and ministry offered by my colleagues, among them Stephanie Keates, Derek Avery, our Reader Joan Grenfell, and Bryan Vernon.

Amongst the others we must name the Pastoral Visiting team who have tried to keep contact with some of the most vulnerable members of our congregation seeking to ensure they continued to feel included within the church community, initially – we thought – for a few weeks, but in effect for the whole year.

We were also blessed by the presence of Nathanael Hayler during the best part of the year, who was with us a "Pastoral Assistant" through the Ministry Experience Scheme offered by the Church of England for those wanting space to explore their vocation to ordained ministry. Despite the oddity of the year – and the opportunity to prematurely end the experience – Nathanael stayed with us in every sense and many of us valued his presence and the gifts of ministry he brought with him. We continue to wish him well in his time at Westcott House theological college.

In October, delayed from Petertide, our SSM curate, Derek Avery was ordained as priest, along with the curate of All Saints' – Beverly Davies, here in St George's. The Bishop presided at a much smaller than usual ordination service, yet it seemed a much more intimate occasion with close family, friends and congregation members. Derek presided at the Eucharist for the first time the following day, still amid covid restrictions, it was none the less an equally joyful occasion, the sermon by David Bryan is still worth a perusal

www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/downloads/

The biggest milestone during the past year was the retirement of Frederick Peacock as our beloved Organist and Choirmaster of 58 years standing. I paid a full tribute to Frederick in the October edition of the Lance and here put on record again my gratitude for all he has contributed to St George's and how grateful I am to have worked with Frederick because of his liturgical sense, spirituality, and dedication. We wish him well in retirement and I am delighted that he graciously accepted the role of Organist Emeritus.

Before the pandemic struck, Lent 2020 got off to a good start with nurture being offering through a variety of Lent groups. We were also well served during Holy Week and Easter by the sermons offered by the Venerable Bob Langley, on the theme "Power and Powerlessness: in the thick of it", which included some early reflections and responses to the pandemic.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(continued)**

REVIEW OF THE YEAR (continued)

As always, St George's is indebted to the diligent work of our churchwardens, and this year they bore the brunt of many practicalities – not only on Sundays, but for weddings and funerals – to ensure that we were all safe in church. Mike de la Hunt cheerfully extended his term of office until our delayed Annual Meeting took place in October – though he still has not laid up his marigolds completely. It has been good to welcome Graham Hatt into this office and to enjoy the positive contribution he is already making to our life together.

Another new member to our wider team has been Emily Gibson who joined us as newly created Family and Youth Leader. This has been a difficult time to start in any new role, but Emily has cheerfully taken on the challenge and her impact in beginning to be seen and felt.

The first stage of the Whole Site Plan has come to fruition with the Faculty being granted for the church extension at the west end of the building and Planning Permissions being granted for proposals to the hall. We are hugely indebted to Bill Apedaile and Alan Johnson for their labours on behalf of the PCC in getting us to this stage. As it began to look at the task of moving to the next stage, namely the raising of funds, it was suggested to the PCC that Canon John Sadler might have insights, experience, and expertise to offer. John has met with the PCC and a smaller working group and we hope to engage both the congregations and the wider community of Jesmond in conversation (as soon as it is safe to do so).

Our worship, sustained in person and online throughout the year, is not all about numbers, but for those who are interested: an average of 73 people attended Sunday worship during October (hugely down, of course, from last year – but nevertheless a pleasant number), likewise our ability to gather at Christmas was greatly reduced (especially in drawing in the wider community), but on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we had 236 people worshipping. In addition to these numbers, we have had growing interest in our online offerings.

At a time when gathering physically for worship has been difficult or impossible, I am grateful to all those who commit to stewardship through Planned Giving, whether by Standing Order, envelope or Direct Debit through the Parish Giving Scheme, which has saved St George's from imploding financially this year.

It has been a difficult year, and therefore I am doubly grateful to those Committees and Groups that have been able to continue our work, their reports are within this Annual Report; you will see that despite the difficulties some have made great progress, not least the Children and Young People's Committee and the Eco Group.

As we begin to emerge from this pandemic, I am aware that there is much anxiety – at a personal level but also about the Church and the Church of England: will people return, have we lost too many, will people continue to volunteer, have we appreciated too much the new (online) ways of being church, glad to worship in our own way and in our own time?

Whilst there may be some basis to such anxiety, I am certain that St George's, with a spirit of hope and expectation, has the resilience to emerge in a post-Covid era more focussed, more energised and more committed to God's mission in this place.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(continued)

MEMBERS OF THE PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Following the Annual Parochial Meeting in October 2020, the following served on the PCC:

Ex-officio:	The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst The Rev'd Stephanie Keates The Rev'd Derek Avery Mrs Joan Grenfell Mrs Louise Chapman Mr Graham Hatt Miss Catherine Laidler Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth	Lay Reader Churchwarden Churchwarden Secretary
Deanery Synod:	Mrs Kay Plumley Mr Mike de la Hunt	
Elected Members:	Dr Bill Apedaile Mrs Caroline Field Mr Donald Gaze Mrs Carmen Hubbard Dr Tom Klenka Mrs Sophie Leach Dr Alison Mattinson Mrs Enid Pearson Mr Paul Taylor	Treasurer

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

At the Annual Parochial Meeting of October 2020 it was declared that 193 names were entered on the Electoral Roll.

CHARITABLE STATUS

The PCC is a charitable body and was registered with the Charity Commission on 17 November 2009. The PCC had previously been excepted from registering. As a charitable body, it is able to claim refunds on Gift Aid contributions from HM Revenue & Customs.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(continued)

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Total unrestricted income for the year was £159,195, compared with £184,311 in 2019. Income from unrestricted donations and legacies was £111,731 compared with £119,457 in 2019. The most significant fall was in collections received from services (2020: £2,764; 2019: £12,704). A decrease in trading activities (2020: £38,021; 2019: £55,090) was largely a result of the non-permission of the fetes, fundraising activities and Church Hall letting during National Lockdown brought about by Covid-19. Grant income has been received from Newcastle City Council in respect of Covid-19 relief; £5,000 was received in the financial year through a successful bid for relief. Subsequent to the year end, further applications for relief were submitted successfully, with £12,689 received early in 2021, with the potential for more to be received. This amount has not been included in the accounts for year ended 31 December 2020.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £174,478 compared with £181,672 in the previous year; this overall decrease was largely the result of Covid-19 reducing a large number of the expenses in the year; most particularly the Church Hall running costs which have fallen by £5,401 in the year.

The resulting net expenditure on unrestricted funds was £15,283 (2019: £2,639 net income).

The PCC held free reserves (unrestricted funds not invested in tangible fixed assets) of £98,486 at 31 December 2020 (2019: £116,840), including the designated buildings works fund of £57,007. Free reserves for general use at 31 December 2020 were £41,478, a decrease of £11,711 from the previous year end. The PCC aims to hold free reserves for general use of around £45,000.

There was one significant movement in the restricted funds in the year; £24,000 was received in the year to support the Family & Youth Leader project. £17,000 of this income was received through charitable foundation grants in the year.

There was no significant movement in the endowment fund in the year.

Since the year end, the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions have continued to impact Church income, particularly in the areas of hall lettings and service collections. Thankfully, we are able to deal with this in short term by using our reserves; longer term, we will need to look for ways to restore our reserves.

Going forward, the Church Tower requires significant repairs and fundraising. Costs are expected to be £80,000 in total, with the PCC agreeing to contribute 20% of these costs from Funds available (£16,000). Fundraising efforts will be made to raise the remaining amounts.

Approved by the members of the PCC on 13 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The members of the PCC are required by the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the PCC as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed and whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102);
- Use the going concern basis of accounting unless they intend to liquidate the PCC or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the PCC and which enable them to ascertain its financial position and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the PCC and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the PCC on 13 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2020, which are set out on pages 7 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

13 April 2021

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies	1 (a)	111,731	24,797	-	136,528	122,896
Other trading activities	1 (b)	38,021	-	-	38,021	55,090
Investments	1 (c)	789	21	1,816	2,626	2,178
Church activities	1 (d)	8,654	-	-	8,654	8,574
Other income	1 (e)	-	-	-	-	500
TOTAL INCOME		159,195	24,818	1,816	185,829	189,238
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds	2 (b)	144	-	-	144	1,452
Church activities	2 (a)	174,334	2,993	1,816	179,143	185,420
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		174,478	2,993	1,816	179,287	186,872
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(15,283)	21,825	-	6,542	2,366
GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		(2,593)	-	4,200	1,607	7,934
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(17,876)	21,825	4,200	8,149	10,300
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS		-	-	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2020		978,233	62,338	60,627	1,101,198	1,090,898
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		960,357	84,163	64,827	1,109,347	1,101,198

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	2020	2019
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4 (a)	861,872	861,393
Investments	4 (b)	<u>87,234</u>	<u>60,627</u>
		949,106	922,020
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	11,210	8,121
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>158,207</u>	<u>180,584</u>
		169,417	188,705
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	9,176	9,527
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		160,241	179,178
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,109,347</u>	<u>1,101,198</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	960,357	978,233
Restricted	8,9	84,163	62,338
Endowment	8,9	<u>64,827</u>	<u>60,627</u>
		1,109,347	1,101,198

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 13 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



The Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst

The notes on pages 9 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Basis of preparation

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations governing the individual accounts of PCCs, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 as the applicable accounting standards and the 2019 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value.

Going concern

The members of the PCC have prepared the financial statements on the basis that the PCC is a going concern.

After making reasonable enquiries, the members of the PCC have a reasonable expectation that the PCC has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Funds

Unrestricted funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body nor those that are informal gatherings of church members. Endowment funds are funds, the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from investment of the endowment may be used either as restricted or unrestricted funds depending upon the purpose for which the endowment was established.

Restricted funds represent (a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest, and (b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not usually invest separately for each fund. Where there is no separate investment and where considered appropriate, interest is apportioned to individual funds on an average balance basis.

Income

Donations and legacies

Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received.

Gift aid recoverable on donations is recognised when the income is recognised.

Donations and Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement and the amount due.

Other trading activities

Income received from the hire of Church and Church hall is recognised when the service has been performed.

Rental income from the letting of church houses is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the rental period.

Funds raised by the annual fete, jumble sales and other similar events are accounted for gross.

Government grants – those relating to income are recognised using on a systematic basis over the periods in which the PCC recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate.

Investments

Dividends and interest are accounted for when receivable.

Church activities

Sales of the church magazine are accounted for gross.

Other income

Insurance claim income is recognised when received, and accounted for gross.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(continued)

Volunteer help

The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the financial statements.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains or losses are recognised when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments to market value at 31 December.

Expenditure

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation and settlement is probable and quantifiable.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over, or when awarded, if that award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The diocesan quota is accounted for when payable. Any unpaid quota at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

Fixed Assets

Consecrated and benefice property

In so far as consecrated and benefice property of any kind is excluded from the statutory definition of 'charity' by section 10(2) (a) and (c) of the Charities Act 2011, such assets are not capitalised in the financial statements.

Moveable church furnishings

No value is placed on moveable church furnishings held by the church wardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal since the PCC considers this to be inalienable property.

All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice property and moveable church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the SOFA and separately disclosed.

Freehold land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings are stated at values estimated for insurance purposes in 2007, less depreciation charged in the accounts to 31 December 2012. No depreciation has been charged in the accounts to 31 December 2020, as the members of the PCC consider that any such amount would be immaterial in view of the property maintenance programme in place and the high residual values of the properties. An impairment review is carried out at each year-end and any resultant loss identified included in expenditure for the year.

Plant and office equipment

Plant and office equipment is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £500 or less are written off when acquired.

Investments

Investments are valued at market value at 31 December.

Current assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are shown as debtors less provisions for amounts that may prove uncollectible. Short term deposits represent cash held on deposit at the bank. Cash at bank and in hand represents bank balances at close of business on 31 December.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1 INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
1(a) Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	84,505	-	-	84,505	75,583
Tax recoverable	20,896	1,400	-	22,296	21,574
Collections (open plate) at all services	2,764	-	-	2,764	12,704
Gift day	-	-	-	-	6,228
Sundry donations	3,566	6,397	-	9,963	4,807
Legacies	-	-	-	-	2,000
Grants from charitable foundations	-	17,000	-	17,000	-
	111,731	24,797	-	136,528	122,896
1(b) Other trading activities					
Church hall letting	4,181	-	-	4,181	17,214
Church hire	375	-	-	375	2,288
Property rental income	22,977	-	-	22,977	21,163
Fetes and other fund-raising events	5,488	-	-	5,488	14,425
Government grants	5,000	-	-	5,000	-
	38,021	-	-	38,021	55,090
1(c) Investments					
Dividends	472	-	1,816	2,288	1,421
Interest	317	21	-	338	757
	789	21	1,816	2,626	2,178
1(d) Church activities					
Fees	7,454	-	-	7,454	6,714
Magazines	1,200	-	-	1,200	1,860
	8,654	-	-	8,654	8,574
1(e) Other income					
Insurance Claim	-	-	-	-	500
	-	-	-	-	500
TOTAL INCOME	159,195	24,818	1,816	185,829	189,238

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(continued)

2 EXPENDITURE

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019
2 (a) Church activities					
Missionary and charitable giving:					
Church overseas:					
Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
Home Missions and other Church Societies	2,000	-	-	2,000	3,000
Charitable donations	-	-	-	-	2,441
	2,000	-	-	2,000	5,441
Ministry:					
Parish Share	113,542	-	-	113,542	112,429
Clergy expenses	1,965	-	-	1,965	1,940
Clergy housing expenses	4,152	-	-	4,152	3,917
Fees paid to diocese	4,003	-	-	4,003	2,816
Church – running expenses	11,676	-	-	11,676	12,324
Church maintenance	325	-	1,816	2,141	2,671
Upkeep of services	830	-	-	830	1,915
Parish magazine and publicity	772	-	-	772	1,462
Church Hall running costs	5,859	-	-	5,859	11,260
Church Hall maintenance	1,202	-	-	1,202	1,464
Other property upkeep	2,116	-	-	2,116	2,172
Professional fees – whole site plan	5,762	-	-	5,762	247
Flowers	-	508	-	508	926
Asset depreciation	398	-	-	398	599
Others	86	184	-	270	1,111
Organ and choir	4,399	119	-	4,518	6,661
Children and young people	104	2,182	-	2,286	135
Printing, stationery and office costs	3,495	-	-	3,495	4,315
Office administration	9,673	-	-	9,673	9,504
Bank charges	213	-	-	213	549
Independent examiner's fees, including payroll	1,762	-	-	1,762	1,562
Total Church activities	174,334	2,993	1,816	179,143	185,420
2 (b) Raising funds					
Costs of fetes and other fund raising activities	144	-	-	144	1,452
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	174,478	2,993	1,816	179,287	186,872

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(continued)

3	STAFF COSTS	2020 £	2019 £
	Wages and salaries	12,795	12,218
	Pension costs	38	-
		12,833	12,218

During the year the PCC employed an organist, an administrator and a Family & Youth Leader.

4 FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC

4 (a)	Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and office equipment £	Total £
	COST OR VALUATION			
	At 1 January 2020	1,161,787	31,345	1,193,132
	Additions	-	877	877
	Disposals	-	(2,700)	(2,700)
	At 31 December 2020	1,161,787	29,522	1,191,309
	DEPRECIATION			
	At 1 January 2020	300,751	30,988	331,739
	Charge in year	-	398	398
	Disposal	-	(2,700)	(2,700)
	At 31 December 2020	300,751	28,686	329,437
	NET BOOK VALUE			
	At 31 December 2020	861,036	836	861,872
	At 31 December 2019	861,036	357	861,393

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The equivalent insured values in 2020 amounted to £3,515,000.

4 (b)	Investments	2020 £	2019 £
	At market valuation:		
	3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	64,827	60,627
	14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	22,407	-
		87,234	60,627

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2020 is £51,916 (2019: £26,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2020	60,627
Purchases	25,000
Revaluation of investments	1,607
At 31 December 2020	87,234

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fixed Assets	836	883,443	-	64,827	949,106
Current Assets	49,784	34,600	85,033	-	169,417
Current liabilities	(8,306)	-	(870)	-	(9,176)
	42,314	918,043	84,163	64,827	1,109,347

6 DEBTORS

	2020 £	2019 £
Gift aid recoverable	3,933	3,490
Prepayments and accrued income	7,277	4,631
	11,210	8,121

Subsequent to the year end, £12,689 has been received from Newcastle City Council for business relief from the impacts of Covid-19; no provision has been made in the accounts for this grant income.

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Creditors for goods and services	3,020	3,217
Accruals and deferred income	6,156	6,310
	9,176	9,527

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	57,007	-	-	57,007
General fund	42,314	-	-	42,314
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,822	-	1,822
Donations restricted by donor – access to capital and interest	-	82,341	-	82,341
Donations restricted by donor – access to interest only	-	-	64,827	64,827
	960,357	84,163	64,827	1,109,347

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

9 (a) Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	63,651	1,711	(5,762)	-	(2,593)	57,007
General	53,546	157,484	(168,716)	-	-	42,314
Total Unrestricted funds	978,233	159,195	(174,478)	-	(2,593)	960,357

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

9 (b) Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources Incoming £	Outgoing £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Bell Ringers fund	1,995	-	11	(184)	1,822
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	57,082	-	21	-	57,103
Flowers	34	-	786	(508)	312
Family & Youth leader fund	1,309	-	24,000	(2,182)	23,127
Choral Scholarships	925	-	-	-	925
Music	241	-	-	(119)	122
Other donations - garden of remembrance	301	-	-	-	301
Other grants and donations	331	-	-	-	331
Total Restricted funds	62,338	-	24,818	(2,993)	84,163

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader fund is sums raised to support the work of the Family & Youth leader.

Other grants and donations received have been restricted by the donor so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2020 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	60,627	1,816	(1,816)	-	4,200	64,827

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Except for clergy expenses, there were no related party transactions in the year ended 31 December 2020.