

# THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCESTIASTICAL PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S CULLERCOATS

England & Wales · Charity number 1134800

## Details

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**Other names** ST GEORGE'S PCC, CULLERCOATS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Previously excepted

**Registered** 2010-03-10

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

## Contact

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**Address** The Vicarage  
1 Beverley Gardens  
North Shields  
NE30 4NS

**Phone** 01912521817

## Activities

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

**Activities:** St George's Church provides a focal point for the people of Cullercoats.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL
- North Tyneside

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£112,155	£84,898	-	-
2024-12-31	£111,684	£122,848	-	-
2023-12-31	£88,877	£97,763	-	-
2022-12-31	£114,142	£111,369	-	-
2021-12-31	£86,786	£86,412	-	-
2020-12-31	£108,709	£96,196	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Andrew Pinkett		2015-04-27
Ann Lilley		2026-05-03
Aubrey James Bowles		2017-03-19
BRIAN MCNALLY		2011-06-09
Caroline Douglas		2025-05-18
DOROTHY MARGARET PATTERSON		
Elizabeth Lynn		2025-05-18
Gordon Wightman		2023-04-23
Jocelyn Scurr		2026-05-03
John Chamberlin		2026-05-03
Jonathan Ryland		2024-04-28
MICHAEL ALFRED NICHOLSON		2011-06-09
Pamela Winn		2025-05-18
Pauline Murray		2024-04-28
Rachel Box		2025-05-18
Rosemary Kinghorn		2022-05-01
Sean Dowinton		2021-04-25
Vivienne Barke		2021-04-25

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# Accounts

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**S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**3rd MAY 2026**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on seven occasions, plus two informal Special meetings. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received regarding the proceedings of Diocesan and Deanery Synods.**
- 1.2 As everyone is aware Fr Adrian has been retired for nearly two years. Earlier this year we had a meeting with the Archdeacon (Section 12 Meeting) and discussed and reviewed our Parish Profile and Statement. A timetable for the making of an appointment of a new Vicar was also discussed, it being noted according to the Deanery Plan such a post was only a half time appointment. However, following a suggestion from Bishop Stephen we applied to the Additional Curates Society for a grant to provide additional financial support for any appointment. I am pleased to report that we were successful in obtaining such a grant providing for possible additional assistance to any appointment. We have since had another meeting with the Archdeacon and Area Dean to work out the details to fill the vacancy, these discussions are at this point of time ongoing.**
- 1.3 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> June last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups.**
- 1.4 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been secure as far Health and Safety and Safeguarding Regulations are concerned. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. We have also with the help of Choir members publicised social events and services ie, Christmas and Easter on Social Media namely, a Facebook page, Instagram and "TikTok" and linked to our website. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the progress of work being undertaken and details of the repairs, which**

have been completed throughout the period. The work of applying for grants towards the costs of these works for the West Window is proceeding, with the help of Mark Brunton. However, having regard to the Architect's Quinquennial Report and the work arising from this, the Council have decided in order to make the Church building more sustainable for the next, say 20 years or so, to apply for National Lottery Heritage Funding for the West End project together with the urgent works required arising from the Quinquennial Report. This is all with the help of the Architect and the help of a new firm of consultants, Craigmyle who specialise in this type of bidding.

In addition, work for repairs to the rainwater goods has been done at an estimated cost of £42000. Minor repairs including 'lighting' and other electrical repairs have been undertaken in the Hall together with storm damage to the roof. (Details of all this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)

1.5 During this period, some social events have been organised, Harvest and Easter Suppers, Christmas Coffee Morning and a monthly Coffee Morning on the first Saturday of the month have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to this year when we are again to have such events as concerts, recitals etc. The Friends of St George's have also managed to hold their some events ie, Heritage Weeks in September last and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions and sale of refreshments etc, at concerts.

1.6. There have been some items of correspondence received, which have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.

1.7. With regard to Finance, the Council has recognised we continue to have difficulties due to the current economic situation. Thus, we have kept a close eye with the help of the Hon Treasurer between the levels of the working balances this year and last. The Council has reviewed all our charges and fees and made some increases in local charges. As far as the Parish Share is concerned we could not meet our pledge to the Diocese of £30000 in 2025. We have pledged to pay £12500 Parish Share this year but due to the financial situation early in the year we had to reduce the payments and at the year end we paid £12400.

In addition, Andrew Pickett has decided to stand down as PCC Treasurer with effect from this APM which is a decision he has not made lightly as he has enjoyed being our Treasurer, but after 10 years in the post he has felt it was time to take a break. The PCC have recorded our appreciation to Andrew for his work and we wish him well for the future. Arrangements are in hand to find a new Treasurer.

However, HMRC have not paid us outstanding Gift Aid for despite several enquiries, and this poses a question mark for 2026. On top of this utility bills have been high and over budget together with church

**maintenance, thus the situation for this year remains very challenging. (See the Treasurers Report)**

**1.8. As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy and this has been updated and the Council has approved statements on various aspects of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard for incorporation into our Safeguarding Action Plan, and work on this is ongoing. Arrangements have been made for appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and DBS registered accordingly. Following a data breach a new provider for Church DBS checks has been put in place by the Diocese. A new service agreement has been accepted and maintained on our behalf by the PSO. We have also adopted a new “Whistleblowing” Policy with the Diocese. The Council has received regular reports from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC including participation in appropriate “online” and other safeguarding training and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer’s Report)**

**1.9. Tim Hone our Director of Music is now’s settled in with us and plans a number of Organ Recitals later in the summer. The choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services. Arrangements have been made for to try and recruit new members to the Choir. We look forward to other expanded activities as the year progresses.**

**2. Three members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mr Gordon Wightman, Mr Aubrey Bowles and myself. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.**

**2.1. During this Interregnum our normal services along with other activities, ie, weddings, funerals, baptisms, Lent Course have continued, due to help from Margaret our Reader, Helen Brunton, Ann Lilley Vivienne Barke, Gordon Wightman and the Servers, Flower Arrangers and others. In particular, I must thank our Retired Clergy for their contribution to keeping our services going. I must thank everyone who has helped to keep everything going as normal.**

**I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.**

**B McNally.  
Honorary Secretary.**

**May 2026.**

**HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2025**

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet on a Monday morning to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father John ,William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Churchwardens Brian McNally and Michael Nicholson for their support.

**Overall Surplus/Deficit**

Receipts exceeded payments by £27260 Gross Receipts £116539 and Gross Payments £89279

General fund receipts £104442 and General fund payments £72735

Restricted fund receipts £12087 and Restricted fund payments £16544

**Receipts:**

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£48489
SSE Refund	£20755
Wedding/funeral fees	£8535
Tax refund	£5287
Misc donations	£5560

**Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£12400
Church Insurance	£12715
General Maintenance	£8792
Gas	£17447
SSE Overpayment	£7411

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. £924 was donated with the money going to 10 different charities.

### **Parish Share**

In 2025 we had originally pledged £30000 but due to the straightened financial situation we actually paid £12400.

We have pledged £12000 for 2026.

### **HMRC**

At the end of 2025 we were still owed gift aid tax refunds for 2023 and 2024

### **Energy Bills**

We had problems with the boiler early in 2025 . Not only did this result in expenditure on repairs it also led to an increased gas bill.

### **SSE**

We have a contract with SSE for the electricity in the church and the church hall. The bills for the hall were often based on estimated readings. One of the invoices in 2025 was for £11400 and the balance on the account was £7410. This was clearly incorrect but as we pay by direct debit this amount was deducted from our account before I could rectify the situation. I asked for the money to be refunded. SSE were contacted and a correct meter reading submitted. A credit note for £11400 was raised to offset the incorrect invoice but a second credit note was also raised by SSE. As a result the balance on the account had us £20755 in credit and we received a refund of this amount. I have included a contingent liability of £11400 in the 2026 Budget in case SSE ask for a refund.

### **Listed places of worship scheme**

The listed places of worship scheme has allowed eligible churches such as St Georges to reclaim VAT back on much of the expenditure we incur on the maintenance of the church fabric.

The scheme was funded until 31/03/2025 and the Government has not renewed it. A new scheme has been introduced but it is not clear at the moment what the terms and conditions will be .

### **End of Year Balances and Reserves**

At year end the General fund cash balance was £41943. This is more than I had forecast principally because some significant expenditure originally scheduled for 2025 has been deferred to 2026. As a result I currently forecast we could face a deficit of approx. £29000 on the General fund in 2026. In this case the balance on the General fund at the end of 2026 will be approx.. £13000 about 6-7 weeks normal general expenditure significantly less than the recommended 3-6 months.

At year end the balance on all the Restricted funds was £28380

### **The Future**

Although this report is principally about financial year 2025 I need to make some comments about the future.

As I mentioned in my annual report last year expenditure is rising faster than income and we cannot continue running down the reserves. We need to increase regular ,recurring income if we are to pledge the Parish share we would like to.

On a personal note I am looking to stand down as Treasurer with effect from the coming APM.

This has not been an easy decision to make. I have enjoyed being Treasurer ( most of the time ! ) and am very grateful for the opportunity to have served St Georges in this capacity. However I took on the role in 2015 and after over 10 years in the post I feel its time for a break.

I wish the transition to go as smoothly as possible and am willing to help in any way to facilitate this and to support a new Treasurer as they settle into the role.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

March 2026

**St. George's Cullercoats MU Branch Leader's report to St. George's Annual Parish Meeting for year ended 31 December 2025**

I completed a 4th year as Branch Leader, following a new theme for 3 years: Join us! Join In!

Our branch programme for 2025 included 7 afternoon or evening meetings with a speaker and discussion, plus our usual Preparation for Advent to which we invited ladies from several of our neighbouring churches.

We also enjoyed our strawberry tea in the vicarage back garden in July. Three of us were privileged to meet our new Worldwide President Kathleen Snow last summer, when she visited the MU Something Wonderful outreach project in Benwell.

In our Parish, MU support at Baptism services has continued, together with serving light refreshments after the weekly Thursday morning Eucharist. Both these activities provide valuable outreach. As Branch Leader, I was invited to sit on PCC, and subsequently on the Pastoral Committee. Before Fr. Adrian retired in June 2024, he asked me to respond to baptism inquiries and arrange dates for the ceremony. 9 children and 3 adults were baptised during the year. Helen Brunton also continues the more onerous task of managing church wedding bookings.

As Branch Leader I am still on the Pastoral committee, and very much value the support that committee, and in particular Margaret Patterson, gives me.

We started the year with 33 members. 3 Members moved into care homes. Our average attendance at meetings is still under 20, but we are very good between us at keeping in touch with all members with communications, visits, and most importantly our prayers. Branch members remain involved in the life of the church and the local community, and support diocesan and national MU projects. Many thanks to members of St. George's congregation who have supported us, in particular with the MU Annual Christmas Appeal for the Newcastle People's Kitchen.

We look forward to celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union in 2026 –

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Ann Lilley

St. George's Church, Cullercoats  
Pastoral Group Report to APM  
April, 2026

As you are aware, St. George's has been without an incumbent since 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. However, during the time since then, the Pastoral Group has continued to meet bi-monthly, as it always did prior to Father Adrian's retirement.

There are currently five members of the group, (*Ann, Eleanor, Pauline, Shaun & myself,*) and each of us has been given different people to support.

The agenda at each meeting covers those who are in care homes, those who receive the Sacrament at home, sick communicants, those whom we telephone, text or visit regularly, (*usually once a month,*) others with whom we maintain contact and Safeguarding.

The members also check and update the newsletter intercessions and monthly lists and monitor how many people receive the weekly newsletter by email. This currently stands at ninety.

The group looks at the pastoral attendance list, notes any newcomers to the congregation and, for the second year running, did the yearly statistics which are required by the Church of England.

Up until December, 2025, we sent first wedding anniversary cards to those married in church, but this has now been taken over by Helen. *Thank you, Helen.* We have a regular slot in the weekly newsletter and would be grateful if you could check with the group before adding anyone to the newsletter prayer list, as not everyone is comfortable with having their names publicised.

Sadly, we have recently lost four members of the church family, Edith, Wren, Joe and Lorna, and I would ask that we sit in silence for a few minutes to remember them and all that they have given to the church and community. Someone recently showed me an old magazine and it was interesting to read, for example, that Lorna had, at one time, been Parish Secretary.

***PAUSE FOR RELECTION***

We could not run the pastoral group without the support of so many people, the bishops and priests who celebrate the Eucharist, Carol who compiles the newsletter and readings and others outside the pastoral group who give lifts, friendship and support to our parishioners, welcome newcomers and visitors to our congregation and provide refreshments after the Sunday and Thursday Eucharists.

Our grateful thanks go to you all.

Margaret Patterson

(Reader & Pastoral Group Co-ordinator)

**St. George's Church**  
**Fabric Committee Report 2025-**  
**26**

22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025	Fireshield	Fire Extinguishers £ 191.10
10 <sup>th</sup> July 2025	Tynemouth Decorators	Southy Porch Exterior £1500.00
woodwork re-painting		
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Priory Electrical	Repair connection on £ 90.00
central heating control		
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2025	Priory Electrical	Fit new relay to central heating £ 276.00
control		
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2025	Priory Electrical	Fit new thermostat controls to £ 216.00
central heating		
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2026	Whites Burners (Central Heating)	Heating serviced £ 378.00
23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2026	East Coast Roofing	Hall roof storm £ 816.00
damage		
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	GE Consultancy	Repair Consultant £2100.00
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	K. L. Venning	Guttering Repair £6495.72
1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026	K. L. Venning	Guttering Repair £11654.76
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		£23717.58

This represents a small proportion of the work that needs to be done to the church. GE Consultancy will be recommending several different options that may enable us to apply for grants to help us pay for the work to be completed. There is no doubt that grants are much more difficult to obtain now and I cannot see the signs that things will improve in the near future. Most businesses are finding trade difficult and will need any funds shrinking and will need reserves to invest in their own funding.  
Michael Nicholson

**SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

I am pleased to present this report for the year 2025/2026  
Brian and I attended the Archdeacons Visitation at S. John's Cramlington in June to get sworn in as Churchwardens.  
In many ways little has changed since last year. Still no Vicar so we have had to make do as we did last year.

Our thanks to Johnathon who has once again acted as Super Sideman over the year and covered for much of the time that we have been struggling with time commitments and only been able to have one Churchwarden at back of church for services.

We have in the main stuck to the system that we had set up last year. The list of those who have taken on extra jobs to help out is long and I am certain to miss some out so my apologies to those that I have omitted in our thanks.

Margaret with Funerals and also has conducted some services when there has not been clergy available.

Helen with Weddings

Anne with Baptisms

Vivienne with readers.

Brian has done a marvellous job with arranging relief clergy. It takes a huge amount of time finding out who can be available for each service but he managed to sort it all out resulting in managing to find cover for about every service.

Great thanks to all the retired clergy who have conducted services at St. George's over the past months.

Bishop Mark Bryant

Bishop John Packer.

Fr. Michael Vine

Fr. John Chamberlin who despite being unwell for some of the year has still covered for some services.

This year we have been joined by Father Michael Thompson who has made himself available for services as well.

A special thank you to the readers and intercessors, together with all the volunteers, for their contributions and ensuring that services run smoothly.

Unfortunately things have not been so positive in our search for a new vicar as we have yet to determine whether we will be trying for a full time Vicar or a half time one.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory.

I can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£12741.83
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CLI		£313.33
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Thank you all again for you much valued support.

Brian McNally

Michel Nicholson

## **Deanery Synod Report**

**April 2026**

This has been an important year for the Deanery as it continues to develop and implement the Deanery plan at a time of challenging financial constraints. The number of clergy is to be reduced to 11. This will involve issues around the deployment of clergy, parish boundaries and commonality and co-operation between churches.

The Deanery Synod has also spent time discussing ideas in making safe-guarding central to

The Deanery Synod met on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 at St Mark's Shiremoor, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025, at Christchurch North Shields, and 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at St Mary's Monkseaton.

### **Holy Saviour's, Tynemouth. February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

A presentation was given by Reverend Canon Dr Rae Caro. Rae explained that although most of the churches will have seen this presentation, this one has been done for Deanery Synod mission.

Three questions were considered, Who is God in the Deanery? Barriers to Mission? And What is the Message? Members talked within small groups and gave their suggestions.

Dr Rae Caro confirmed her willingness to visit churches within the Deanery to give advice and information on 'Building from the Ground Up'.

Iain Shaw gave out a pack of detailing the Diocesan finances was given to all in attendance. Iain highlighted that average church attendance was up by 3%. The percentage of those attending over the age of 70 is increasing.

The finance news is less cheerful, the Diocese were hoping for an 8% rise, however the overall figure was only a rise of 0.8% for all Deaneries. The rise was 0.5% for our Deanery.

Dates at the bottom of the presentation are to be noted. 24.10.25 is the deadline for return with a window of 12.09.25 until 24.10.25 to be held for discussion within churches. It is hoped that the diocese will be able to achieve balance by 2027.

### **St Mark's Shiremoor, June 25<sup>th</sup> 2025**

There was a talk from Maggi Creese the Lead Officer in chaplaincy to survivors of abuse. There was a discussion on what is meant by moral injury, the betrayal of trust and the churches failure to prevent abuse.

Maggi Creese introduced 'Jagged Edges' an illustrated book that is intended as a resource for confronting and discussing the impact of abuse on individual and the church as a community. The book contains poems, illustrations and woodcuts by three survivors of abuse. The poems and images are based on the Gospel Passion narrative and create a set of new Stations of the Cross that connect their individual stories of abuse with Jesus's suffering.

We then were put into small groups. Each group chose a poem. After discussing the poem, we fed-back our ideas and responses to the poem and how we could improve in helping and understanding survivors of abuse.

Deanery plan is being reviewed with particular focus on new communities at Forest Hall and the Fish Quay, North Shields.

Tim Mayfield has been appointed the programme manager for net zero. He is hoping to build a network of environment champions

There was a short report back from the Diocesan Synod. They had discussed Living in Love and Faith and there was an update on the appointment of a Racial Justice Officer.

### **Christchurch North Shields, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**

Reverend Anne Marr was a visiting speaker. She gave an interesting and informative talk on 150 years of the Mother's Union. Examples of the work undertaken by the Mother's Union were presented to the meeting. Reverend Anne was thanked. St Alban's Church, Earsdon and St John's Church, Backworth welcomed their new Reader, Jo Mcevedy.

The Deanery Plan was discussed. The number of clergy will be reduced to 11 in the Deanery. The next stage of the plan will be how the 11 clergy will be deployed. Iain Shaw, the Deanery Finance Officer, gave out a handout detailing the Deanery finances. He felt things were going well but couldn't predict whether financial targets would be met.

The position of Environment Champion remained vacant.

### **St Mary's Monkseaton, February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025**

There was a discussion of the new Deanery Plan. The number of clergy will be reduced to 11. This will entail a rethink of how those clergy are deployed, parish boundaries and areas of commonality across the Deanery. It is hoped the Deanery will not only maintain what it has but will thrive and grow through the implementation of the Deanery plan.

This was Emma Doran's last meeting as Lead chair of the Deanery.

Sean Dowinton.

**St. Georges Parish Church**

**Annual Parish Meeting 2026**

## Safeguarding Report

We continue to use the safeguarding dashboard that the Diocese rolled out in 2021 which ensures we are compliant with the House of Bishops recommendations (2016) on Safeguarding. At the time of writing this report the dashboard shows us as 'green', 100% compliant, however some risk assessment reviews are due soon, which will change the dashboard percentage 'amber' showing these are for action, not red which would deem them urgent. These will be reviewed at the next PCC meeting.

The Safeguarding team regularly discuss any current issues and when necessary advise the PCC and Diocese.

As a parish we continue to work to maintain and improve procedures and what follows is a brief summary.

- The PCC regularly approve the action plans generated by the dashboard and are made aware of the areas requiring attention, reviewing, completing or updating.
- The Safeguarding Policy statement is followed by the PCC.
- DBS checks continue to be maintained and updated. Following a breach of data from the DBS company provider, those people whose details were taken, were notified and action taken to minimise the risk. A new DBS provider was found and we are now registered with this company. Thanks must be expressed to Sheila Wightman for steering us through this difficult time and new process.
- Declaration forms for the major groups within the Church are updated and completed when required.
- Risk Assessments have been completed for a number groups within the Church and others reviewed and renewed when necessary.
- The new Diocese Safeguarding Team (DST) has introduced a number of training sessions both online and face to face for all those requiring training, and those wishing additional training. Several members of the PCC and the PSO have undergone further training on the courses offered, including Domestic Abuse and Leadership courses. The DST have also started regular online meetings to update all PSO's and those involved with Safeguarding on current issues and this also gives the opportunity for any questions or issues to be raised and answered.

In February, the General Synod approved the new 'Safer Recruitment and People Management Code of Practice' This comes into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026, but is now available on the Church of England website.

- Core Safeguarding training has been undertaken by all members of the PCC including those appointed within the last year.

- Safeguarding contact details are posted in the Church porch and Church hall together with details of how to access any information, handbooks and policies.

We continue to track our progress using the Safeguarding Dashboard and Hub as well as reviewing and updating our policies and procedures to make our church a safer place for all.

In accordance with Safeguarding guidelines, we need to report that there have been two Safeguarding issues recorded and dealt with in the past year. These have been noted by the PCC.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2026 and I would like to thank the Safeguarding team, the PCC and everyone else for their support and input.

Pauline Murray. PSO.



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December 2025

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	48,489		48,489	49,458
Collections at Services	4,347	1,040	5,387	5,886
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	5,560	3,761	9,321	11,486
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	5,287		5,287	11,233
Legacies received (capital value)	0	5,000	5,000	0
Recurring grants				0
Non-recurring grants		2,286	2,286	15,825
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	8,929		8,929	6,971
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	1,154		1,154	1,919
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	4,153		4,153	6,681
Income from trading and other church activities	1,394		1,394	925
<b>Other Income</b>	20,755		20,755	1,300
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>100,068</b>	<b>12,087</b>	<b>112,155</b>	<b>111,684</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>100,068</b>	<b>12,087</b>	<b>112,155</b>	<b>111,684</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	282		282	115
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		925	925	699
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	12,400		12,400	48,000
Salaries / honoraria	6,000		6,000	8,413
Expenses of clergy etc	2,736		2,736	3,373
Mission and evangelism costs		1,200	1,200	1,200
Church running expenses	18,401	5,627	24,028	33,290
Church utility costs	20,036		20,036	11,638
Costs of trading	1,088		1,088	1,432
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)	7,411		7,411	1,300
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>68,354</b>	<b>7,752</b>	<b>76,106</b>	<b>109,460</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>		8,792	8,792	13,388
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>68,354</b>	<b>16,544</b>	<b>84,898</b>	<b>122,848</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>31,714</b>	<b>(4,457)</b>	<b>27,257</b>	<b>(11,164)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(4,648)	4,648	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	14,877	28,186	43,063	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>41,943</b>	<b>28,377</b>	<b>70,320</b>	<b>(11,164)</b>

# Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	20,764	8,380	
	CBF deposit fund	21,000	20,000	
	Other cash funds	179		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>41,943</b>	<b>28,380</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	

Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

Assets retained for the PCC's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Contingent liability	General	11,400	

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	A Pinkett	

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2025 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

May 2026

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# Accounts

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**S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**18th MAY 2025**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on seven occasions, plus two Special meetings. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received from representatives of Diocesan and Deanery Synods of what has occurred at meetings of the respective synods.**
- 1.2 As everyone is aware Fr Adrian retired as from the 30<sup>th</sup> June last. In July we reviewed the Resolution under the House of Bishops "Declaration". After careful consideration of all the points made to us we came to the conclusion that following the tradition of our Church for over a 100 years and the passing of the Resolution in 2016 and the passing of Resolutions of A and B in 2007 it was decided unanimously to reaffirm the previous decision made in 2016 to maintain the unity of the Parish. Following this in September we met with the Arch Deacon and the Area Dean to discuss the steps forward to fill the Vacancy for a new Vicar. There followed two special meeting of the Council to consider the preparation of a Statement describing the conditions, needs and tradition of the Parish and the "Parish Profile" (known as Section 11 meetings). Accordingly the above draft documents were approved and submitted to the Bishops for consideration. We wait to hear from them regarding a further meeting (known as a section 12 meeting) before the Vacancy can be advertised.**
- 1.3 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> May last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups.**
- 1.4 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been secure as far Health and Safety and Safeguarding Regulations are concerned. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the**

progress of work being undertaken and details of the repairs, which have been completed throughout the period. The Council considered a revised tender that had been received from our Architect, John Barnes for the West End and agreed to accept a tender in the sum of £191,000 plus VAT, this included stone and glazing work for the West End project to which would be added Architect's fees of 10%. The work of applying for grants towards the cost of the work is proceeding, with the help of Mark Brunton, with approximately £20,000 granted from various sources so far. However, having regard to the Architect's Quinquennial Report and the work arising from this, the Council have decided in order to make the Church building more sustainable for the next, say 20 years or so, to apply for National Lottery Heritage Funding for the West End project together with the works required arising from the Quinquennial Report. This is all with the help of the Architect and a firm of consultants, Dig Ventures who specialise in this type of bidding. Also it is hoped to include in the bid an upgrading or rebuild of the Church Hall in line with the need to show links with the Local Community as required as part of the bid. Arising from this, and because of other concerns raised regarding the condition of the hall building the Architect has done a survey and while certain minor repairs are needed, the Hall is safe but is nearing the end of its useful life, being good for another few years.

In addition, some repairs to the rainwater goods has been done and a quotation sort for some additional work. Repairs have also been done to some windows following storm damage. Minor repairs including 'lighting' and other electrical repairs have been undertaken in the Hall together with storm damage to the roof. (Details of all this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)

1.5 During this period, some social events have been organised, Harvest Supper, Christmas and Easter Fairs and have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to this year when we are again to have such events as concerts, recitals etc. The Friends of St George's have also managed to hold their some events ie, Heritage Weeks in September last and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions and sale of refreshments etc, at concerts.

1.6. There have been some items of correspondence received, which. have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.

1.7. With regard to Finance, the Council has recognised we continue to have difficulties due to the current economic situation. Thus, we have kept a close eye with the help of the Hon Treasurer between the levels of the working balances this year and last. The Council has reviewed all our charges and fees and made some increases in local charges. As far as the Parish Share is concerned we met our pledge to the Diocese of £48000 in 2024. We had originally pledged to pay £30,000 Parish Share this year. However, HMRC have not paid us Gift Aid for 2023 yet,

despite several enquiries, and this poses a question mark for 2024. On top of this utility bills have been high and over budget together with church maintenance, thus we have reduced the amount paid each month, but we will review the situation later in the year and hopefully “top up” our Parish Share. (See the Treasurers Report)

1.8. As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy and this has been updated and the Council has approved statements on various aspects of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard for incorporation into our Safeguarding Action Plan, and work on this is ongoing. Arrangements have been made for appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and registered accordingly. The Council has received regular reports from the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC including participation in appropriate “online” and other safeguarding training and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer’s Report)

1.9. Tim Hone our Director of Music has been settling in with us and thus the choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services. Arrangements have been made for to recruit new members to the Choir and to restart the “Choir Club”. We look forward to other expanded activities as the year progresses.

2. Three members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mrs Rosemary Kinghorn, Mrs Ann Lilley and Mr Michael Nicholson, also Mr Nathan Batten has resigned for family reasons and Mr Paul Corrigan no longer attends this Church. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.

2.1. During this Interregnum our normal services along with other activities, ie, weddings, funerals, baptisms, Lent Course have continued, due to help from Margaret our Reader, Helen Brunton, Ann Lilley Vivienne Barke, Gordon Wightman and the Servers, Flower Arrangers and others. In particular, I must thank our Retired Clergy for their contribution to keeping our services going. I must thank everyone who has helped to keep everything going as normal.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.

**B McNally.**  
Honorary Secretary.

May 2025

## SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I am pleased to present this report for the year 2024/2025

Both Brian and I did not start our term of office officially until several months into the year owing to complications with the previous Church Warden not being available for swearing in.

We did act unofficially for some time before we were sworn in properly.

Our thanks to Johnathon who has acted as Super Sideman over the year and covered for much of the time that we have been struggling with time commitments.

This has of course been an awkward year due to Fr. Adrian's retirement, but we were left with many instructions to enable us to battle through.

The list of those who have taken on extra jobs to help out is long and I am certain to miss some out so my apologies to those that I have omitted in our thanks.

Margaret with Funerals

Helen with Weddings

Anne with Baptisms

Viviene with readers.

Gordon and Brian with arranging relief clergy.

It goes on endlessly.

Great thanks to all the retired clergy who have conducted services at St. George's over the past months.

Bishop's Mark and John.

Fr. Michael.

Fr. John who has covered for so many additional services as well as spending a huge amount of time compiling a profile on aspects of the church which be forwarded to potential priests when we are allowed to advertise the vacancy at St. George's.

Not forgetting Fr. Andrew who has been present to assist in many services.

A special thank you to the readers and intercessors, together with all the volunteers, for their contributions and ensuring that services run smoothly.

By the time that this report is read for the AGM we should be almost back to normal with everything as it was before March 2020.

Churchwardens have responsibilities to the Incumbent, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop and normally need to be sworn in at special services but because of the delays Brian and I had to go to Church House to be sworn in at a special meeting this year.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory.

I can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£12387.36
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CLI		£305.44
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Thank you all again for you much valued support.

Brian McNally

Michael Nicholson

**HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2024**

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet on a Monday morning to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father John ,William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Churchwardens Brian McNally and Michael Nicholson for their support.

**Overall Surplus/Deficit**

Payments exceed Receipts by £11164 Gross Receipts £116203 and Gross Payments £127367  
General fund receipts £90615 and General fund payments £99057  
Restricted fund receipts £25588 and Restricted fund payments £28310

**Receipts:**

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£49458
Wedding/funeral fees	£11199
Tax refund	£11233
Grants /VAT Refunds	£12224

I also think it is worth noting we received an anonymous donation of £5000 for repairs to the Organ , £1919 interest on our Deposit fund , £1725 from concert fees ,£2175 from Fayres and £1210 from coffee donations.

**Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£48000
Church Insurance	£12387
General Maintenance	£15895
Gas	£7050
Organ repairs	£8606

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. £854 was donated with the money going to 15 different charities.

### **Parish Share**

In 2024 we achieved our Parish share pledge of £48000.

We have had to reduce our pledge to £30000 for 2025.

### **HMRC**

In early 2020 HMRC made an overpayment to us of £9321. They have offset this against the tax refund they owe us for 2020 and 2021. They also owed us a refund for 2022. This money was paid in 2024. However the tax refund they owe us for 2023 had still not been paid at the end of 2024.

### **Energy Bills**

The Gas contract ended in October 2024. The new contract reflects the new prices for energy and are significantly more than the old contract.

### **End of Year Balances and Reserves**

At year end the General fund cash balance was £14877 This equates to about 7 weeks normal general expenditure. To put that in context the diocese recommends we should have reserves of 3- 6 months.

At year end the balance on all the Restricted funds was £28186.

Over the last 10 years we have incurred expenditure of just under £90,000 on repairs to the Church fabric . This has been financed from various sources such as donations, legacies, grants , VAT refunds . However this income has not covered the expenditure and we have gradually had to run down the reserves in the Church maintenance restricted fund. This fund is now effectively empty. Consequently for the foreseeable future general maintenance of the church fabric will have to be financed from the General fund and will be competing with other demands for money such as Parish share ,Insurance premiums and utility bills.

### **The Future**

Although this report is principally about financial year 2024 I need to make some comments about the future.

The original 2025 Budget forecast a £8200 deficit on the General fund. However since the Budget was set there have been a number of significant changes to the financial situation.

As mentioned above we are still owed money from the HMRC for 2023 and will be due more for 2024. It is not clear when this money will be paid.

We have had extra unforeseen expenditure on the maintenance of the Boilers and the knock on effect of this means this years Gas bill will be significantly over budget.

We have also had extra unforeseen expenditures on the church fabric. As noted above this has now to be financed from the General fund.

All these factors means the deficit on the General fund this year is likely to be significantly more than originally forecast. We have therefore decided to reduce the monthly direct debit payment of Parish share. If this monthly reduction continues for the rest of 2025 the Parish share we actually pay this year would be £12400 not £30000 - a considerable reduction . The financial situation will be monitored in the coming months .

Whatever Parish share we pay in 2025 - unless the finances improve dramatically - the Parish share we can pledge in 2026 will be significantly less than £30,000.

Basically expenditure is rising faster than income and we cannot continue running down the reserves. We need to increase regular ,recurring income if we are to pledge the Parish share we would like to.

We plan to put in a bid to the National Heritage Lottery fund to finance repairs and upgrades to both the church and the church hall. However even if this bid is successful such monies are unlikely to be made available in the near future.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

April 2025

### **Deanery Synod Report** **April 2025**

This has been another important year for the Deanery Synod as it continues to develop and implement the Deanery plan at a time of falling Church attendance and challenging financial constraints. The Deanery Synod has also spent time discussing ideas in making safe-guarding central to all church activities and also launched the programme 'Seeking, Sharing and Sending', a three -year plan to develop mission in the diocese.

The Deanery Synod met on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 at St Mary's Monkseaton, June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 at St Mary's Willington, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at Holy Saviour's Tynemouth.

March 7<sup>th</sup> 2024. St Mary's, Monkseaton.

This was Tim Mayfield's last meeting as Area Dean. He stood down on the 30<sup>th</sup> April and was replaced by Rev. Nigel Taylor.

A presentation was made by Tara Russell the Diocesan Education Lead and Sue White on the Church 'Growing Younger'. This is a programme to increase church attendance by young people. Different scenarios were outlined and then discussed in small groups. Feedback was given. The importance of toddler groups and growing relationships with schools were key in bringing more young people into church it was decided.

There was a presentation from the Finance Officer, Iain Shaw. All financial targets were met and exceeded in 2023.

June 26<sup>th</sup> 2024. St Mary's, Willington

Rev. Nigel Taylor introduced himself as the new Area Dean. He explained the purpose of the Deanery Synod and asked for greater participation from those attending the Synod.

The issue of safeguarding was discussed. It was stressed that safeguarding was not just a tick box exercise but needed to be integrated into all aspects of church life.

There was feedback from the Deanery planning group. The costing of the plan was presented and discussed. Tynemouth Deanery has been cut by two Stipends. Across the Diocese there is a deficit of 1.1 million and the intention is to make savings of 330k this year.

Iain Shaw the Financial Officer gave a presentation and thanked Churches as financial targets are ahead.

Tim Mayfield discussed Environmental issues affecting the Diocese. A carbon Net Zero Officer is to be appointed soon.

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. Holy Saviours, Tynemouth.

The meeting began with a moment of silent prayer for Reverend Katie Watson who died recently.

Two questions were asked after the previous meetings minutes were approved.

It was asked whether in this time of financial constraints the levels of staffing at Church House would be under the same level of financial scrutiny as the number of Stipends in the Deanery.

It was also asked if the Diocesan running costs are, disproportionately high in comparison to other Dioceses, and whether there was a benchmark against which this could be judged. It was decided a question would be asked at the next Diocesan Synod.

There was the launch of the programme, Seeking, Sharing and Sending. The first year of the programme was concerned with 'Seeking' and a 'Seeking' prayer cycle card and 'Seeking' response postcard were given out as part of the launch. People are invited to fill in and return the Postcard.

There was a discussion on Safeguarding with an emphasis in changing the culture and embedding safeguarding as part of Church life and not seeing it as a tick-box exercise. There was a report on the progress of the Deanery Plan. Stipends in the Deanery will be reduced by 2 (14-12). The Diocese would the number of stipends will be eventually reduced to 11. We are asked to pray for the Deanery Planning Group.

Iain Shaw, the Deanery Finance Officer presented the Financial Statements for 2023 this was to assist with both the Mid-year review and planning for next year. The report highlighted average weekly giving of each church in relation to the Deanery Average, and the reserves of each church against the Deanery Average. St George's Church has weekly giving just above the Deanery Average and reserves well above the Deanery Average

Finally, Tim Mayfield, the new Bishop's Advisor on the Environment talked about the progress of appointing Net Zero advisors.

February 18<sup>th</sup> 2025. Holy Saviours, Tynemouth.

The main item was a talk from the Revd. Canon Dr. Rae Caro, Mission Enabler, on "Building from the Ground Up."

Canon Rae said that mission is critical. She talked about all the motivations that we have for mission, eg biblical, compassion, justice, survival, money, social, discernment, salvation, joy, discipleship and top-down projects, and the barriers to mission, eg people not being able to express who God is for them.

Canon Rae went on to ask "Who is God" and mentioned that God is love, God is our refuge and strength, God is with us, God is faithful and God is a God of justice. She then asked, "Which images of God dominate our Church?" "Which images of God do we want to communicate more deeply?" and we discussed this in small groups.

Canon Rae then asked, "What is the message?" She said that whatever we do speaks of who God is. The next question was "What are we trying to tell people?" and she mentioned the Diocesan strap line, 'Seeking, Sharing and Sending.'

“Who is God?” was the next question, again discussed in small groups, and Canon Rae talked of her own experience, adding that God transforms lives. She said that “Who God is” is reflected in our church buildings and asked “Does what we already do speak of who God is?” She said that authenticity is very important and that we need to increase confidence in our congregations.

After Canon Rae’s presentation, we had safeguarding – *there is a new diocesan team in place* – the Deanery plan – *it is being re-done, looking at priorities* – and the report from Iain Shaw, the Deanery Finance Officer. Although some numbers had gone down over the last two years, the Easter Day attendance, usual child attendance, usual adult attendance and usual Sunday attendance had gone up.

There is currently no Deanery Environment Champion and the Diocesan Environment Adviser was in Tanzania, so there was no report and the reports from General Synod and on the ALM Course were to be sent round.

Emma Doran, Vice-Chair, reported briefly on the November Diocesan Synod, saying that the main focus was finance and that the 80 stipendiary posts we currently have may have to go down to 60 in three years’ time. She said that every deanery is losing people. In AOB, Revd. Nigel, Area Dean, reminded us that we have to do new electoral rolls this year and that Revd. Daniel McCarthy was being inducted as Rector of the North Shields Parish on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Sean Dowinton and Margaret Patterson.

**St. George’s Church**  
**Fabric Committee Report 2024-**  
**25**

28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	P. A. Harrison	North Guttering
High Level		£6646.80
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	P. A. Harrison	North Guttering
Low Level		£4026.00
31 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	Fireshield	Fire Extinguishers
		£ 163.50
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024	Priory Electrical	RCD
		£ 108.00
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2024	Lightning Protection Services	Lightning Conductor
		£ 144.00
12 <sup>TH</sup> Oct. 2024	Tynemouth Decorators	Vestry re-painting
		£1176.00
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 2024	Priory Electrical	Chancel Lights
		£1080.00
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whites Burners (Central Heating)	
		£2978.00
5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	East Coast Roofing	Hall Storm Damage
£250 insurance excess to pay		£ 744.00
11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Priory Electrical	Thermostat
		£ 90.00

28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Classic Masonry	Clerestory Repair (Storm Damage)	£3234.00
9 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Castle Scaffolding	Chancel Window Repair	£1350.00
(storm Damage)	£1000.00 Insurance excess		

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£21740.30

All prices are inclusive of VAT some of which we should be able to claim back.  
The figures on some of the storm repairs are subject to Insurance repayments  
In some cases not included above the repairer's waived charges and donated the work FOC

The list above does not include repairs still to be carried out on the lower part of the North Guttering

which will cost a minimum of £29,000 and could be as much as £37000.

We have been promised a substantial grant towards this work.

St. George's Church, Cullercoats  
Pastoral Group Report to APM  
April, 2025

St. George's has been without an incumbent since 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024. However, during the time since then, the Pastoral Group has continued to meet bi-monthly, as it always did prior to Father Adrian's retirement.

Without Fr. Adrian, there were only four members in the group, namely Ann, Eleanor, Shaun and myself, so I am pleased that Pauline accepted our invitation to join the group, bringing the membership back up to five. We are especially thankful to Pauline for doing so, as she is also our Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Each member of the group has different people to support and the agenda at each meeting covers those who are in care homes, those who receive the Sacrament at home, the sick communicants, those whom we telephone, text or visit regularly, (*usually once a month,*) and others with whom we maintain contact.

The members also check and update the newsletter intercessions and monthly lists and monitor how many people receive the weekly newsletter by email. This currently stands at ninety-one.

The group looks at the pastoral attendance list, notes any newcomers to the congregation and this year did the yearly statistics which are required by the Church of England.

We send out first wedding anniversary cards to those who have been married in church – *baptism and wedding cards are sent out by the Mothers' Union* - and have a regular slot in the weekly newsletter. We would be grateful if you could check with the group before adding anyone to the newsletter prayer list, as not everyone is comfortable with having their names publicised.

We could not run the pastoral group without the support of so many people, the bishops and priests who celebrate the Eucharist, Carol who compiles the newsletter and others outside the pastoral group who give lifts and support to

our parishioners, welcome newcomers and visitors to our congregation and provide refreshments after the Sunday and Thursday Eucharists. Our grateful thanks go to you all.  
Margaret Patterson  
(Reader & Pastoral Group Co-ordinator)

## *St. Georges Parish Church*

### *Annual Parish Meeting 2025*

#### Safeguarding Report

We continue to use the safeguarding dashboard that the Diocese rolled out in 2021 which ensures we are compliant with the House of Bishops recommendations (2016) on Safeguarding. At the time of writing this report the dashboard shows us as 'green', 100% compliant, however some training refreshers are due soon, which will change the dashboard percentage 'amber' showing these are for action, not red which would deem them urgent. Those requiring to refresh their certificates, which is every three years, are being contacted individually so their safeguarding training remains up to date.

The Safeguarding team has met three times since last year to discuss any issues, most notable was concerns following the Makin report and the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. No criticism was levelled at Parish level and discussions at the General synod has raised further concerns nationally, on who should deal with Safeguarding, whether the church, or an external body. We will continue to monitor the issue.

As a parish we continue to work to maintain and improve procedures and what follows is a brief summary.

- The PCC regularly approve the action plans generated by the dashboard and are made aware of the areas requiring attention, completed or updated.
- The Safeguarding Policy statement is followed by the PCC.
- DBS checks continue to be maintained and updated.
- Declaration forms for the major groups within the Church are updated and completed when required.
- Risk Assessments have been completed for the major groups within the Church and others reviewed and renewed when necessary, as well as an additional one being recently completed.
- During the year, the Diocese Safeguarding caseworker has changed several times, however, a new person has now been appointed. We are currently in the process of updating the St Georges Church website, as it is a requirement to have all Safeguarding personnels contact details listed from a link on the front page of the website.
- Core Safeguarding training has been undertaken by all members of the PCC including those appointed within the last year.

- Safeguarding contact details are posted in the Church porch and Church hall together with details of how to access any information, handbooks and policies.

We continue to track our progress using the Safeguarding dashboard as well as reviewing and updating our policies and procedures to make our church a safer place for all.

In accordance with Safeguarding guidelines, we need to report that there have been no Safeguarding issues recorded and this has been noted by the PCC.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2025 and I would like to thank the Safeguarding team, the PCC and everyone else for their support and input. In particular, I would like to thank Alison French the previous Safeguarding Officer, for all the assistance, guidance and advice she has given me this past year.

Pauline Murray  
Parish Safeguarding Officer



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December 2024

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	49,458		49,458	47,944
Collections at Services	5,190	696	5,886	10,269
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	3,719	7,767	11,486	6,132
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	11,233		11,233	5,746
Legacies received (capital value)				0
Recurring grants				0
Non-recurring grants		15,825	15,825	3,350
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	6,971		6,971	5,798
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	1,919		1,919	1,721
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	6,681		6,681	7,217
Income from trading and other church activities	925		925	700
<b>Other Income</b>		1,300	1,300	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>86,096</b>	<b>25,588</b>	<b>111,684</b>	<b>88,877</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>86,096</b>	<b>25,588</b>	<b>111,684</b>	<b>88,877</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	115		115	0
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		699	699	2,127
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	48,000		48,000	48,000
Salaries / honoraria	8,413		8,413	4,578
Expenses of clergy etc	3,373		3,373	3,892
Mission and evangelism costs		1,200	1,200	1,600
Church running expenses	21,567	11,723	33,290	20,910
Church utility costs	11,638		11,638	8,378
Costs of trading	1,432		1,432	1,278
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)		1,300	1,300	7,000
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>94,538</b>	<b>14,922</b>	<b>109,460</b>	<b>97,763</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>		13,388	13,388	0
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>94,538</b>	<b>28,310</b>	<b>122,848</b>	<b>97,763</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>(8,442)</b>	<b>(2,722)</b>	<b>(11,164)</b>	<b>(8,886)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(7,545)	7,545	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	30,864	23,359	54,223	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>14,877</b>	<b>28,182</b>	<b>43,059</b>	<b>(8,886)</b>

# Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	5,976	3,186	
	CBF deposit fund	8,000	25,000	
	Other cash funds	901		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>14,877</b>	<b>28,186</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Other monetary assets</b>	HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2023 owed to ST Georges	5,000		

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Assets retained for the PCC's own use</b>	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>Liabilities</b>				

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev A Hughes A Pinkett	

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2024 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

May 2025

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# Accounts

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**S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**28th APRIL 2024**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on seven occasions. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received from representatives of Diocesan and Deanery Synods of what has occurred at meetings of the respective synods. In particular we have considered the Deanery Plan entitled "Shaping the Future" which envisages Parishes working together in order to keep the Diocese more sustainable details of which were shared with the congregation. As part of this we intend to work as closely as possible with our neighbouring Parishes in order to share resources, an example of this has been the recent Lent Course run in association with St Peter's, St Mary's and St Paul's. In addition, our new Diocesan Bishop Helen-Ann attended her first Diocesan Synod last May, indicating her intention to maintain diversity within the Diocese and would seek to ensure clarity in all diocesan policy and decision making.
- 1.2 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> May last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups.
- 1.3 As previously reported, the proposal of establishing a Charitable Trust to manage and erect a new hall is paused. This is still the current situation.
- 1.4 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been secure as far Health and Safety and Safeguarding Regulations are concerned. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the progress of work being undertaken and details of the repairs, which have been completed throughout the period. The Council considered tenders that had been received from our Architect, John Barnes and agreed to accept a tender in the sum of £152,000 plus

VAT, this included stone and glazing work for the West End project to which would be added Architect's fees of 10%. A Faculty for the work has been granted and the process of applying for grants towards the cost of the work is proceeding, with the help of Mark Brunton, with approximately £20,000 granted from various sources so far. We will be applying for further grants and other fund raising activities and it is hoped that work could commence later this year but it will depend on how our activities go.

1.5 Also we have considered the Architect's Quinquennial Report and drawn up a list of priority work arising from this. The most urgent being repairs to the rainwater goods and roof and quotations are being sought for this work. In addition, minor repairs including 'lighting' and other electrical repairs have been undertaken in the Hall. Also repairs have been made to the TC Lewis Organ by Harrison and Harrison at a total cost of £5580. (Details of this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)

1.6 During this period, some social events have been organised, Harvest Supper, Christmas and Easter Fairs and have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to this year when we can again have such events as concerts, choral evensong etc. The Friends of St George's have also managed to hold their some events ie, Heritage Weeks in September last and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions and sale of refreshments etc, at concerts. They also have a new website.

1.7. There have been some items of correspondence received, which have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.

1.8. With regard to Finance, the Council has recognised we continue to have difficulties due to the current economic situation. Thus, we have kept a close eye with the help of the Hon Treasurer between the levels of the working balances this year and last. The Council has reviewed all our charges and fees and made some increases in local charges. As far as the Parish Share is concerned we met our pledge to the Diocese of £48000 in 2023 and hope to keep it at this level for the next two/three years, depending on the level of our overall finances. (See the Treasurers Report)

1.9. As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy and this has been updated and the Council has approved statements on various aspects of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard for incorporation into our Safeguarding Action Plan, and work on this is ongoing. Arrangements have been made for appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and registered accordingly. The Council has received regular reports the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC including participation in appropriate "online" and other safeguarding

training and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer's Report).

2. Also discussions regarding the renewal of our Mission Action Plan with the help of the 'Think Tank' and at our meeting last July the revised Mission Action Plan was approved.

2.1. The Director of Music, Andrew Reid, with his family left last summer for a new position in Cambridge and arrangements made for the vacant post to be advertised, interviews arranged and the appropriate safeguarding protocols carried out and Tim Hone our new Director of Music took up his post on the 24<sup>th</sup> September last. Tim has been settling in with us and thus the "Choir Club" has continued to meet and the choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services. We look forward to other expanded activities as the year progresses.

2.2. Three members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mrs Jennifer McNally, Mrs Shaun Mitchell and Mrs Caroline Douglas. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.

2.3 As everyone is aware this will be the last APM that Fr Adrian will be with us, as he is retiring and his last service with us will be on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. On behalf of the PCC, myself and all of us may I wish him and Helen our best wishes for their future.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.

**B McNally.**  
Honorary Secretary.

**April 2024**

**HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2023**

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet on a Monday morning to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father Adrian whom I pester regularly on financial matters, William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Brian McNally who patiently checks and countersigns all the cheques I place before him.

**Overall Surplus/Deficit**

Payments exceed Receipts by £8885 Gross Receipts £95936 and Gross Payments £104821

General fund receipts £88144 and General fund payments £91220

Restricted fund receipts £7791 and Restricted fund payments £13601

**Receipts:**

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£47944
Wedding/funeral fees	£14276
Collections	£6613
Tax refund	£5745

I also think it is worth noting we received £1721 interest on our Deposit fund, £1716 from concert fees, £1478 from Fayres and £1349 from coffee donations.

**Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£48000
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Church Insurance	£11686
Services	£7940
Gas	£6019
Restricted donations	£7400
Wedding/funeral fees	£7059

The Restricted donations payments of £7400 included £7000 repayment of loan from the Friends.

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. £2165 was donated with the money going to 22 different charities.

### **Parish Share**

In 2023 we achieved our Parish share pledge of £48000.

We have also pledged £48000 for 2024.

### **Friends of St Georges**

The Friends loaned St Georges £7000 in 2022. This was repaid in 2023.

### **HMRC**

In early 2020 HMRC made an overpayment to us of £9321. They have offset this against the tax refund they owe us for 2020 and 2021. They also owe us a refund for 2022. At the end of 2023 this money had not been paid.

### **Energy Bills**

We are on fixed price tariffs so the recent spike in energy prices had limited impact on our bills. However the Gas contract is renewing in 2024 and we will be paying considerably more in the future.

### **Quinquennial report**

The Architect produced the Quinquennial report late 2023. Excluding the West End Window Restoration the report has identified the need for an estimated £41500 (excl VAT ) repairs over the next 5 years.

## End of Year Balances and Reserves

At year end the General fund cash balance was £30863 This equates to about 18 weeks normal general expenditure. However the 2024 Budget forecasts a £8800 deficit on the General fund .

At year end the balance on all the Restricted funds was £23364. However on current trends the Church Maintenance fund will be empty by the end of 2024. If this happens then in future years general church maintenance will have to be financed from the General fund.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

March 2024

## **SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

We would like to start with a few thanks. To Fr Adrian for his ongoing help and support. The 'sidesmen', those who assist with the readings and prayers all of who have once again been a great support each week. Enabling the main Sunday services to run smoothly is very much a team effort. During Pauls absence at the start of the year Jonathan stepped up to assist and seamlessly kept things ticking along. Thanks go to Jonathan and to all of the volunteers, for their contributions.

Music at St Georges Church is an important part of our worship. In July we said goodbye to Andrew, Louise, Sarah, Chrisopher, Eleanor and Catherine with thanks for all they had brought and given to our St George's worship and community. Then in September hello to Timothy Hone who took on the

Musical Director role and has already taken us through a major restoration of the T S Lewis Organ and we hope is now feeling very much a part of the St George's Cullercoats community.

May we also thank the retired clergy who assist so frequently filling in for services, without them it would be a struggle to maintain the number of services which are offered. We celebrated the retirement of Andrew Beeston in February this year but are delighted that he and Jennifer are still very much a part of our congregation.

We held a number of successful social events in year helping to raise £1,800 for the building restoration fund. There is a small team who organise these events although as ever unless we all support these on the day they won't succeed. So well done everyone for bringing along family and friends and making these such a success. Also a great way to broaden our involvement into the local community.

During the course of the last year we hosted a service of Confirmation for Churches in our Deanery which was presided over by the Bishop of Beverley, the Rt.Rev. Stephen Race.

Visitors to St George's come from far and near. The visitors book at the rear of church is always worth a look and in this last year we have messages from visitors living in at least 6 European countries, Canada and the USA, South America, India and Pakistan, New Zealand and Australia, China, numerous Eastern European countries, Ukraine and the Middle East. Their appreciation is of both the quiet space and the beauty of the building.

Churchwardens have responsibilities to the Incumbent, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop. Last year Paul and Vivienne were pleased to attend the swearing in service for churchwardens in person, good to meet with others in this role.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory. Our thanks go to Shaun who assisted with this when Paul was absent.

We can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£11,686.74
CCLI		£279.10

Thank you all again for you much valued support.  
Vivienne Barke      Paul Corrigan

This is the last report I shall be involved in as Churchwarden as I finish at this APM. It has been both an interesting and rewarding role for the last 3 years. I wish the churchwardens my very best wishes moving forward.  
Vivienne

### **Fabric Committee Report April 2023 – April 2024**

28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Boiler Service	£432.00
9 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Newcastle Diocesan Registry	£273.00
	West End Repair Faculty	
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Detection of under floor electrical fault replacement of cables in organ loft. Replacement of fuse box and heating controls	£2715.00

Gutter cleaning carried out as necessary -small repairs carried out as required.

### **Future repair undertakings**

#### **West Window & Masonry Repairs**

The west window is in need of much of the stonework being repaired or replaced and the glass being re-lead and cleaned.

Total cost will be in excess of £210,000.

We have applied to many funders for assistance in raising this sum but still are a long way short of the total needed.

#### **Guttering and drainpipe repairs.**

The guttering to both roof levels is in need of inspection for blockages and where necessary the replacement of the down comer drainpipes. At the moment it is impossible to give a total cost for this work as scaffolding will need to be erected for the inspections to take place. A previous quotation for all the pipework to be replaced was listed at £39000.00.

#### **South Porch**

The wood in the South Porch needs to be sanded and re-oiled.

We have received a donation to cover the cost of this.

### **Church Hall**

12 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	New Light Fitting
£120.00	
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	New Light Tubes and Extractor Fan
£120.00	

Roof leak repaired – gents toilet ceiling repaired.

Small repairs to heating and light tubes replaced, as necessary.

## **Deanery Synod Report** **April 2024**

This has been an important year for the Deanery Synod as the church addresses serious issues of continued falling church attendance, financial constraints, and reduction in clergy numbers.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2023 the deanery synod held a ‘Shaping the Future’ day at St Lukes Church Wallsend, it was introduced by Bishop Helen-Anne. At the meeting the draft proposal for the Deanery’s 3-year plan which was to be finalized and submitted to the diocese by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 23 was presented by the Deanery Development group. Those attending the day held small group discussions and then gave feedback on the proposed draft. The Deanery development group took note of the feedback given before presenting the final proposal at the Deanery Synod meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The key proposals of the plan were: -

To reduce the number of clergy deployments by 2 stipends (from 14 to 12, St Georges Cullercoats would remain as 0.5 stipend)

to increase and development of Readers and Lay Ministry.

To increase services of the word, these services are not communion services and so can be led by a Lay person. This would free-up clergy to lead worship in other areas of the Diocese.

To sustaining and develop the ministry of retired clergy.

to increase outreach work to schools and new communities and work to attracting young people to the church.

To identify churches for closing and repurposing.

To promote parish giving scheme.

The plan was approved at the Deanery Synod meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and subsequently submitted to the Diocese.

A meeting was held by the Deanery Synod on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to confirm the officers of the Synod and membership of the development group. Feedback was given on the progress of the 3-year plan.

The last meeting was on 7<sup>th</sup> March, where Tara Russell (Children and Youth Team Leader for the Diocese) gave a presentation and led discussions on bringing young people into the life of the church.

Tim Mayfield has stepped down from his position of Area Dean on completing his 5<sup>th</sup> year.

Some sobering figures.

In the 4-year period from 2018-2022 across the Deanery, on average: -

- Baptisms are down by 5%
- Marriages have dropped by 24%
- Funerals have dropped by 24%
- Easter day attendance is down by 23%
- Christmas attendance is down by 22%
- Child Sunday usual attendance is down by 46%
- Adult Sunday usual attendance is down by 26%
- And so, the Usual Sunday attendance Figure is down by 28%
- Electoral Rolls are down by 11%
- However, the statistic for Worshipping Communities is almost the same as 2018.

Sean Dowinton.

# *St Georges Parish Church*

## *Annual Parish Meeting*

### **Safeguarding Report**

The Safeguarding team has met three times since this time last year. We continue to use the Safeguarding dashboard that the Diocese rolled out in 2021 which ensures we are compliant with the 2016 House of Bishops recommendations on Safeguarding. At the time of writing this report we are 97% compliant according to the Dashboard with only two outstanding actions that are amber “for action” not red that would deem them urgent. Although many areas are fully compliant. As a parish we continue to work to maintain and improve procedures. Therefore, what follows is a summary of the tasks that have been undertaken and new procedures that have been put in place. Namely:-

- The PCC regularly approve the action plan generated by the dashboard as areas are completed or updated.
- The new Safeguarding Policy statement has been adopted by the PCC.
- DBS checks continue to be maintained and updated.
- Declaration forms for the majority of major groups within the Church have been recently updated and completed.
- Risk assessments have been completed for the majority of major groups within the Church.
- A description of role and responsibilities have been created for the Choir leader in relation to the choir.
- Core Safeguarding training has been undertaken by members of the PCC.
- A document on privacy and confidentiality has been produced.

Using the Safeguarding dashboard, we will continue to work on tracking our progress as well as constantly reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. Thus, continuing to work to make our church a safer place for all.

We also need to ensure that training is kept up to date by encouraging newly appointed members of the PCC to complete the Basic online training available. And that where necessary refresher courses are undertaken if three years have lapsed, and the person is still in post. This continues to be an ongoing focus. In the following months we need to obtain a risk assessment for the Choir. We also need to present to the PCC the procedures for dealing with Safeguarding allegations and concerns as it is up for review and validation.

In accordance with Safeguarding guidelines, we need to report that there have been no Safeguarding issues in this year, and this has been noted by the PCC.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2024. I would like to thank the PCC for their support and due regard for Safeguarding. Lastly but not least my thanks to the Safeguarding team and everyone else for their support and contributions.

Alison French  
Safeguarding Officer.

### **St. George's Cullercoats MU Branch Leader's report for year ended 31 December 2023**

Our branch programme for 2023 included 6 afternoon or evening meetings.

The Parish Lent Course this year was on the theme of Healing – following domestic abuse, and comprised 5 sessions at local churches, including one meeting hosted by our branch. As a follow-up to this course, Fr. Adrian asked us to host an open evening in May at which Dr. Rosemary New explored with us, through discussion and a presentation, the effects of abuse and made us more aware of how we may support victims. Mothers' Union worldwide for many years now has encouraged us to take part in awareness campaigns during the United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based violence in November. This year the RiseUp campaign was launched at our National Gathering in York, and leaflets, help cards or displays appeared in many churches, including our own. This issue will continue to need our prayers.

Our September evening meeting was used to make up emergency hospital bags, over a cup of tea. This was one of many projects that we the members have supported this year. The other big fund-raiser was of course to support the Newcastle Peoples' Kitchen Christmas gift bag appeal for the homeless. Funds raised by the generosity of members and the wider congregation were managed by Margaret Chamberlin to whom we owe our appreciation once again for converting the cash into items to fill 6 bags. Thank you Margaret. Some projects have been more practical than just fund-raising. Several members have demonstrated their skills in knitting and crocheting, making garments for prem babies, fiddle muffs for a variety of Wards in the local hospitals, and 6 Shaun the sheep stuffed toys to support the St. Oswald Hospice campaign this year. The sheep joined a larger flock in the cathedral for a few weeks and were then auctioned off to good homes!

Deanery and Diocesan events were well attended by our members. A highlight for me was the MU National Gathering at the Barbican with York, once again there was a monsoonal downpour during the walk from there to the Minster but Sung Evensong and a sermon by the Archbishop of York was absolutely worth getting wet for! The other occasion that stands out was when Fr. Adrian very kindly prepared a beautiful and inspiring Advent Service on the theme of light for our deanery members in December. Nearly 70 of us took part in the service and enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea and fellowship with ladies from at least a dozen local churches.

In our Parish, support at Baptism services has continued, together with serving light refreshments after the weekly Thursday morning Eucharist. Both these activities provide valuable outreach. We also continue to prepare baptism cards for the first four anniversaries and also wedding cards.

We started the year with 35 members. Dear Brenda Mennear died last May, after a long and brave battle against illness. She held many roles in Mothers Union, including

latterly of course, our own branch Leader for 3 years. Another past Branch Leader Elizabeth Revett, who most of you will remember also died.

Several of our members have encountered serious illness and sudden bereavement over the last twelve months and we continue to pray for and support each other.

We have continued to adapt our monthly Office in the church that precedes afternoon meetings, and I wish to finish by expressing my personal thanks to Fr John for suggesting readings and hymns for our monthly office, and of course to Fr. Adrian for his support and guidance throughout the last twelve months.

Ann Lilley



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December

2023

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	47,944		47,944	50,537
Collections at Services	8,104	2,165	10,269	9,765
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	3,856	2,276	6,132	9,295
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	5,746		5,746	5,438
Legacies received (capital value)				12,000
Recurring grants				0
Non-recurring grants		3,350	3,350	3,220
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	5,798		5,798	4,561
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	1,721		1,721	292
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	7,217		7,217	3,672
Income from trading and other church activities	700		700	1,648
<b>Other Income</b>			0	13,714
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>81,086</b>	<b>7,791</b>	<b>88,877</b>	<b>114,142</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>81,086</b>	<b>7,791</b>	<b>88,877</b>	<b>114,142</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>			0	112
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		2,127	2,127	1,795
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	48,000		48,000	46,000
Salaries / honoraria	4,578		4,578	5,250
Expenses of clergy etc	3,892		3,892	4,131
Mission and evangelism costs		1,600	1,600	1,350
Church running expenses	18,035	2,875	20,910	21,171
Church utility costs	8,378		8,378	6,590
Costs of trading	1,278		1,278	1,084
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)		7,000	7,000	0
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>84,161</b>	<b>13,602</b>	<b>97,763</b>	<b>87,483</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>			0	23,886
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>84,161</b>	<b>13,602</b>	<b>97,763</b>	<b>111,369</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>(3,075)</b>	<b>(5,811)</b>	<b>(8,886)</b>	<b>2,773</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(450)	450	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	34,389	28,720	63,109	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>30,864</b>	<b>23,359</b>	<b>54,223</b>	<b>2,773</b>

# Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	5,558	3,364	
	CBF deposit fund	25,000	20,000	
	Other cash funds	306		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>30,864</b>	<b>23,364</b>	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	

Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2020-2022 owed to St Georges	5,700		

Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

Assets retained for the PCC's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Director of Music	Unrestricted	1,600	

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev A Hughes A Pinkett	

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2023 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

April 2024

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# Accounts

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**S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2023**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on six occasions. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received from representatives of Diocesan and Deanery Synods of what has occurred at meetings of the respective synods. In particular in order to keep the Diocesan Budget as sustainable as possible and at the request of the Deanery Synod we intend to work as closely as possible with our neighbouring Parishes in order to share resources, an example of this has been the recent Lent Course run in association with St Hilda's, St Aidan's and St Paul's.**
- 1.2 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups.**
- 1.3 As previously reported, the proposal of establishing a Charitable Trust to manage and erect a new hall is paused and enquires have yet to be made to establish the possible costs involved in keeping the present building but making it "fit for purpose" for say the next twenty years. This is still the current situation.**
- 1.4 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been secure as far Health and Safety and Safeguarding Regulations are concerned. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the progress of work being undertaken and details of the repairs, which have been completed throughout the period. The Council have also agreed through a tendering procedure through John Barney's our Architect to explore funding and permissions in order to start work on the stonework and glazing repairs to the West End.**

**1.5 Repairs to a downcomer, hall heaters and “Pat” testing to electrical appliances in the Church and the Hall have been undertaken. Repairs to storm damage to the Stained Glass and Roof in the Apse. (Details of this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)**

**1.6 During this period, it has not been possible to have many social events but those organised ie, Cullercoats Music Festival, and talks have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to this year when we can again have such events as concerts, choral evensong etc. The Friends of St George’s also have been quiet but have managed to hold their some events ie, Heritage Weeks in September last and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions.**

**1.7. There have been some items of correspondence received, which. have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.**

**1.8. With regard to Finance, the Council has recognised we continue to have difficulties due to the current economic situation and the after effects of the pandemic. Thus, we have kept a close eye with the help of the Hon Treasurer between the levels of the working balances this year and last. The Council has reviewed all our charges and fees and made some increases in local charges for weddings and funerals and the use of the Church Hall. As far as the Parish Share is concerned we met our pledge to the Diocese of £46000 in 2022 and hope to increase this over the next two/three years, depending on the level of our overall finances. (See the Treasurers Report)**

**1.9. As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy and this has been updated and the Council has approved statements on various aspects of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard for incorporation into our Safeguarding Action Plan, and work on this is ongoing. Arrangements have been made for appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and registered accordingly. The Council has received regular reports the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC including participation in appropriate “online” and other safeguarding training and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer’s Report).**

**2. Also discussions regarding Church Services have taken place and decisions taken having regard to the reinstatement of Evensong on the first Sunday of the month, with Benediction every three months, discontinuing the said Eucharist on a Friday, with Baptisms now to be held at 11.30am on Sundays instead of 11.15am.**

**2.1. The “Choir Club” has continued to meet and the choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services. We look forward to other expanded activities as the year progresses.**

**2.2. Two members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mrs Sheila Hill and Mr Sean Dowinton. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.**

**I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.**

**B McNally.  
Honorary Secretary.**

**April 2023.**

## **SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

Paul and Vivienne would like to give our thanks to Fr. Adrian for his support and help during the year. This role is an ongoing learning curve and it's good to have the opportunity to share and work things out.

We would also like to thank all who have assisted us during the year. Firstly, thank you to the 'sidespersons who have taken on new duties this year supporting us especially when we are busy elsewhere during Sunday services. The rota for readings and prayers is now established and whilst the offertory can be taken by the sidespersons, we are always open to having other volunteers helping.

Enabling the main Sunday services run smoothly is very much a team effort. Thanks go to all of the volunteers, for their contributions. A special mention for Helen and Paul who throughout lockdown set up and streamed the 8am Sunday service and have continued to do this. Our online service regularly reaches 50 individuals, an interesting extension to our congregation.

Music at St Georges Church is an important part of our worship, our thanks go to both our Director of Music, Andrew and Louise for their time given at services and at choir rehearsals. Choir club meets weekly and now has an earlier session for younger singers.

May we also thank the retired clergy who assist so frequently filling in for services, without them it would be a struggle to maintain the number of services which are offered.

It's been great to have a year of mostly 'back to normal' activities after covid and lovely to see most people feeling confident enough to catch up in the hall over coffee on a Sunday after the 9.30am service. We are very grateful to all of those who help with the coffee on a Sunday morning.

We have also managed a couple of social occasions, a pie and pea quiz night, coffee mornings and a wonderful evening of Music, Poetry and beer arranged by Maurice. Thanks go to the volunteers who stepped up to make these such a success.

During the course of the last year we hosted a service of Confirmation for Churches in our Deanery which was presided over by the Bishop of Wakefield, the Rt.Rev. Tony Robinson SSC. We have also hosted the Annual General Meeting of the Newcastle Diocese branch of The Society under the patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda which was attended by the new Bishop of Beverley, the Rt.Rev. Stephen Race SSC.

Churchwardens have responsibilities to the Incumbent, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop. Last year Paul and Vivienne were pleased to attend the swearing in service for churchwardens in person, god to meet with others rather than seeing faces on 'zoom'.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory. Once every two years we expect a visit from the Archdeacon who carries out an inspection, according to our records we were due a visit in 2020 but due to lockdown it didn't occur. We are still waiting.

We can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£11,559.63
CCLI		£253.28

Thank you all again for you much valued support.

Vivienne Barke  
Paul Corrigan

**HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH**

**FINANCIAL YEAR 2022**

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet on a Monday morning to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my

task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father Adrian whom I pester regularly on financial matters, William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Brian McNally who patiently checks and countersigns all the cheques I place before him.

### **Overall Surplus/Deficit**

Receipts exceeded Payments by £2774 Gross Receipts £117758 and Gross Payments £114984

General fund receipts £82806 and General fund payments £83246

Restricted fund receipts £34951 and Restricted fund payments £31738

### **Receipts:**

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£50537
Church maintenance	£12022
Legacies	£12000
Wedding/funeral fees	£7287
Restricted loan	£7000
Collections	£6165

The church maintenance figure of £12022 includes an insurance claim receipt for £6714 relating to storm damage. We received 4 legacies in 2022 and the £7000 restricted loan was from the Friends to ease cash flow near financial year end when we had significant church fabric repair bills.

### **Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£46000
General maintenance	£26070
Church Insurance	£10767
Services	£8869

Gas £5510

The General maintenance payments of £26070 included £23501 for the Aisle roof and Apse window repairs

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. £1790 was donated with the money going to 20 different charities.

### **Parish Share**

In 2022 we achieved our Parish share pledge of £46000.

We have increased our pledge to £48000 for 2023. It is worth noting that only 5 of the other 18 parishes in the Tynemouth Deanery have also increased their pledges in 2023.

### **Friends of St Georges**

The Friends loaned St Georges £5146 in 2020 to pay Architects fees. The Friends have since very generously converted this into a donation. The Friends made a further loan of £7000 to ease our cash flow in late 2022 when we had significant fabric repair bills.

### **HMRC**

In early 2020 HMRC made an overpayment to us of £9321. They have offset this against the tax refund they owe us for 2020 and 2021. At the end of 2022 they owed us approx. £700.

### **Energy Bills**

We are on fixed price tariffs so the recent spike in energy prices had limited impact on our bills in 2022. However the electricity contracts are renewing in 2023 and we will be paying more in the current year.

### **End of Year Balances and Reserves**

At year end the General fund cash balance was £34389. This equates to about 20 weeks normal general expenditure. However the 2023 Budget forecasts a £12000 deficit on the General fund .

At year end the balance on all the Restricted funds was £28722 but we have a £7000 liability – the loan from the Friends - which will need to be repaid.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

March 2023

## **St. George's Church Fabric Committee Annual Report** **March 2023**

### **Church Building**

Over the year general maintenance has been carried out.

Late November 2022 saw the scaffolding erected round the Apse to facilitate the repairs to the roof slates and the stained glass damaged during storm Arwen.

We took advantage of the scaffolding being in place to have the other windows to the front of the Apse inspected and subsequently had polycarbonate covers fitted on the outside to protect those windows which were loose and in danger of being blown out. The worn stonework around the windows was also repointed to hold the windows more firmly. This work should ensure that we do not have any problems with the windows for many years.

Fortunately the scaffolders were sturdy fellows and while discussing the problems that we were having with accessing the top of the flagpole to re-attach the flag fixings they volunteered to help in lowering and lifting the pole back into position. The last time this was done it took five of us to struggle to do this. This time it was managed with three. I will be ever grateful to them for their help. As soon as the weather improves we will have the flag flying again.

The West window has been of great concern for some time the stonework is badly eroded and much of the glass loose. We now intend to have this rectified. The church Architect has prepared a report and is currently seeking estimates for the work. When that is completed we will seek to raise the funds and hopefully proceed with the repairs.

### **Church Hall**

No major work has been needed in the hall.

Some of the heaters have either been damaged or ceased to work and been replaced.

Minor repairs to electrical plugs and water pipes has been undertaken.

Michael Nicholson  
Fabric Committee Chairperson

### Deanery Synod Report to APM – April 2023

Since the last APM, Deanery Synod has met three times, in June, October and March, with Aubrey Bowles, Brian McNally and Margaret Patterson as representatives from St. George's.

Revd. Tim Mayfield is Area Dean, with Dr. Pat Bragg as Environment Champion, Revd Dr. Rae Caro as Mission Enabler (new estates), Emma Doran as Lay Chair, Jan Porter as Secretary and Dr. Iain Shaw as Finance Officer. The post of Treasurer is currently vacant.

Each meeting has begun with parish representatives asking for prayer for a particular aspect of their parish life. News has been given of comings and goings within the Deanery and reports have been received from Diocesan and General Synods.

At the June meeting, we heard the "Tale of Two Marys," contrasting the parishes of St. Mary, Monkseaton with St. Mary, Willington, and we were given copies of "A Rich Picture of Tynemouth Deanery," which is displayed in the Church Hall. I can email you a copy, if you would like one.

At the October meeting, time was given for discussion of Q6 of the Parish Self review: "Do clergy, wardens and the PCC have a shared sense of vision and direction?" and there was a brief discussion of the work going on in the Deanery to support refugees from various places in the world. For people new to the UK, there is a drop-in centre in Howard Street, North Shields. Contact details are available, if you would like to be involved.

At the March meeting, there was discussion on Community Money Advice and an update on the Deanery Planning Process, with a Deanery Lent Course currently running in some parishes and a Deanery Morning planned for Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Regarding Parishes, it is interesting to note that the only vacancy at the moment is that of a Vicar in the North Shields Team. However, we need to pray for and support other parishes whenever we can and the recent Lent Course has given us the opportunity to engage with St. Aidan's, St. Hilda's and St. Paul's, Whitley Bay. We give thanks to the Revd. Canon Adrian Hughes for organising that course and for his ministry here at St. George's.

Margaret Patterson

## *St Georges Parish Church*

### *Annual Parish Meeting*

#### **Safeguarding Report**

The Safeguarding team has met five times since this time last year. And we have welcomed Maurice Condie to our team. We continue to use the Safeguarding dashboard that the Diocese rolled out in 2021 which ensures we are compliant with the 2016 House of Bishops recommendations on Safeguarding. We have worked hard on several areas in order to reach the goal

set by the Diocese to be at level 3 by November of last year. Although many areas were fully compliant and as a parish, we moved swiftly from level two to level three some areas needed more work/ clarification. Therefore, what follows is a summary of the tasks that have been undertaken and new procedures that have been put in place.

Namely:-

- The PCC regularly approve the action plan generated by the dashboard as areas are completed or updated.
- The new Safeguarding Policy statement has been adopted by the PCC.
- DBS checks continue to be maintained and updated.
- Declaration forms for all major groups within the Church have been recently updated and completed.
- Risk assessments have been completed for all major groups within the Church.
- Role descriptions have been created for the Choir leader and Pastoral visitor team.
- Core Safeguarding training has been undertaken by members of the PCC.
- The newly appointed Church warden has completed his Leadership training.
- A procedure is in place for safer recruitment.
- A document on a Safer Environment and Activities has been circulated to all relevant groups.
- A document on how to deal with a disclosure has been circulated to all PCC members and church wardens.

Using the Safeguarding dashboard, we will continue to work on tracking our progress as well as constantly reviewing and updating our policies and procedures. Thus, continuing to work to make our church a safer place for all. We also need to ensure that training is kept up to date by encouraging newly appointed members of the PCC to complete the Basic online training available. And that where necessary refresher courses are undertaken if three years have lapsed, and the person is still in post. This continues to be an ongoing focus. In the following months we will be looking at doing some domestic abuse training with key members of the church. In order that they are equipped to deal with a disclosure of that nature, should it arise. All training and availability can be accessed online via the Diocese.

In accordance with Safeguarding guidelines, we need to report that there have been no Safeguarding issues in this year, and this has been noted by the PCC.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2023. I would like to thank the PCC for their support and due regard for safeguarding. Lastly but not least my thanks to the Safeguarding team and everyone else for their support and contributions.

Alison French  
Safeguarding Officer.



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December

2022

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	50,537		50,537	49,472
Collections at Services	7,975	1,790	9,765	13,652
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	3,931	5,364	9,295	7,824
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	5,438		5,438	4,820
Legacies received (capital value)		12,000	12,000	0
Recurring grants			0	0
Non-recurring grants	1,137	2,083	3,220	4,020
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	4,561		4,561	1,813
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	292		292	36
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	3,672		3,672	4,447
Income from trading and other church activities	1,648		1,648	702
<b>Other Income</b>	0	13,714	13,714	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>79,191</b>	<b>34,951</b>	<b>114,142</b>	<b>86,786</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>79,191</b>	<b>34,951</b>	<b>114,142</b>	<b>86,786</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	112		112	59
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		1,795	1,795	1,388
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	46,000		46,000	40,500
Salaries / honoraria	5,250		5,250	4,879
Expenses of clergy etc	4,131		4,131	4,450
Mission and evangelism costs	0	1,350	1,350	886
Church running expenses	16,464	4,707	21,171	19,210
Church utility costs	6,590		6,590	5,365
Costs of trading	1,084		1,084	1,632
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)				0
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>79,631</b>	<b>7,852</b>	<b>87,483</b>	<b>78,369</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>		23,886	23,886	8,043
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>79,631</b>	<b>31,738</b>	<b>111,369</b>	<b>86,412</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>(440)</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>2,773</b>	<b>374</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(389)	389	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	35,218	25,118	60,336	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>34,389</b>	<b>28,720</b>	<b>63,109</b>	<b>374</b>

# Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	8,997	8,722	
	CBF deposit fund	25,000	20,000	
	Other cash funds	392		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>34,389</b>	<b>28,722</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Other monetary assets</b>	HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2020 owed to St Georges	700		

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Assets retained for the PCC's own use</b>	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>Liabilities</b>	Loan from Friends of St Georges	Restricted	7,000	

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev A hughes A Pinkett	

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2022 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

April 2023

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# Accounts

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## **S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**1 May 2022**

#### **REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on six occasions together with two informal meetings and a Special meeting relating to a safeguarding matter. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received from representatives of Diocesan and Deanery Synods of what has occurred at meetings of the respective synods. In particular in order to keep the Diocesan Budget as sustainable as possible and at the request of the Deanery Synod we intend to work as closely as possible with our neighbouring Parishes in order to share resources.**
- 1.2 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups.**
- 1.3 As previously reported, the Council felt that the current proposal of establishing a Charitable Trust to manage and erect a new hall be paused and enquires be made to establish the possible costs involved in keeping the present building but making it "fit for purpose" for say the next twenty years. This is still the current situation.**
- 1.4 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been COVID 19 secure**

within the Regulations in force at that time.. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the progress of work being undertaken and details of the repairs, which have been completed throughout the period. The Council have also agreed through a tendering procedure to appoint Mr John Barnes as our new Quinquennial Inspector (Architect). Repairs to the Central Heating, new Notice Boards and Flag Pole have been completed, and repairs investigated to storm damage to the Stained Glass and Roof in the Apse. (Details of this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)

**1.5 It has not been possible to produce a Magazine during this period. The Council decided that we should keep our present system of publishing a Newsletter in its present form, with the publication of an expanded edition from time to time.**

**1.6 During this period, it has not been possible to have many social events which would have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to this year when we can again have such events as concerts, choral evensong etc. The Friends of St George's also have been quiet given the present situation but have managed to hold their Annual Meeting and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions.**

**1.6 There have been some items of correspondence received, which have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.**

**1.7 As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy and this has been updated and the Council has approved statements on various aspects of the new Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard for incorporation into our Safeguarding Action Plan, and work on this is ongoing. Arrangements have been made for appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and registered accordingly. The Council has received regular reports the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC including participation in appropriate "online" and other safeguarding training and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. A major part of the Councils deliberations have had regard to safeguarding, as mentioned above, informal and formal**

meetings regarding a family a member of which suffered historic sexual abuse and how this involved their worship at St George's and more widely within the Church. The PCC has supported the family as best we could having regard to the appropriate legislation including a pledge that St George's would do everything possible to support and welcome any survivors of abuse in association with the Diocese and the strategies of the Church Of England. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer's Report).

1.8 As stated above, discussions regarding Church Services have taken place and decisions taken having regard to COVID 19 Guidance issued by the Church of England.

1.9 The "Choir Club" has continued to meet and the choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services. We look forward to other expanded activities as the year progresses.

2.0 Five members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mr Gordon Wightman, Mr Chris Johnston, Miss June Gibbon, Mrs Katherine Hardy and Mrs Brenda Mennear. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.

I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.

**B McNally.**

**Honorary Secretary.**

**May 2022.**

## SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

I am pleased to present this report for the year 2021/2022

Both Vivienne and I would like to give our thanks to Fr. Adrian for his support and help during the year. We would also like to thank all who have assisted us during the year. A special thank you to the Readers and Intercessors, together with all the volunteers, for their contributions and ensuring that services run smoothly. May we also thank the retired clergy who assist so frequently filling in for services, without them it would be a struggle to maintain the number of services which are offered. Maurice and Andrew continued to assist on Sundays when we were still having restricted services, but eventually we were able to improve to the extent that we re-started the system with sidesmen at back of church.

By the time that this report is read for the AGM we should be almost back to normal with everything as it was before March 2020.

We did manage to have a fish and chip supper in the hall at one stage albeit with restricted numbers, but with luck social events should now be able to return.

Churchwardens have responsibilities to the Incumbent, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop.

It may well be that after the AGM and the appointment of Churchwardens that their swearing in will be in person and not on Zoom.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory.

Once every two years we also have a visit from the Archdeacon who carries out an inspection, according to our records we were due a visit in 2020 but due to lockdown it never took place. Maybe this year?

I can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£10609.10
CCLI		£253.28

Thank you all again for you much valued support.

Vivienne Barke

Michael Nicholson

**St. George's**  
**Church Fabric Committee Annual Report**  
**April 2022**

**Church Building**

Over the year general maintenance has been carried out.

Clerestorey window and stonework repaired  
September 2020

Work was completed on the repair of glass and a stone mullion on the South side of the Apse. December 2020

Fire extinguishers tested  
July 2021

Church and church hall appliances tested  
July 2021

Church and church hall electrical installations tested – satisfactory  
October 2021

Lightning conductor tested  
November 2021

Central heating repaired  
December 2020

New control box fitted to central heating  
January 2021

Central heating converted to sealed system  
September 2021

Central heating leak temporary repair  
November 2021

Central heating leak fully repaired  
January 2022

New sign board installed at front of church  
March 2022

Flagpole repaired  
March 2022

Outstanding:

Storm Arwen damage still awaiting the contractor to carry out repair.

Major repair work to west end windows and stonework

Major repair work to rainwater down comer pipes and underground pipes

The last two items will cost substantial sums to carry out for which will need to apply for grants to complete

Michael Nicholson

Fabric Committee Chairperson

St. George's Church, Cullercoats

Deanery Synod Report to APM – April, 2022

The Deanery Synod has met three times since the last APM. All these meetings have been led by our Area Dean, the Revd. Tim Mayfield, over Zoom, although it is hoped that the next one, which is due to take place in June, will be in person at St. Peter's Church, Balkwell.

Each meeting has opened with prayer requests from each church in the Deanery and reports have been received from Diocesan and General Synods.

Churches have been encouraged to complete their Parish Self-Review, to work where possible across parish boundaries and to participate in the "Living in Love and Faith" course concerned with relationships and identity. The new priest at St. Mark's, Shiremoor and Mission Enabler, the Revd. Dr. Rae Caro, has talked to us about reaching out to new estates, (such as the proposed development at Murton Gap,) and our Deanery Environment Champion, Pat Bragg, has encouraged us on green issues. We have had regular and detailed updates on finance and parish share from our Deanery Finance Officer, Iain Shaw, and a presentation from our Diocesan Generous Giving Team Leader, Joanne Christie.

New priests have been welcomed into the deanery at our synods and a Lent Course has been organised. We have a Deanery Development Group, on which our church is represented by Brian McNally.

Margaret Patterson – 01.04.22.

(Deanery Synod rep., along with Brian McNally and Aubrey Bowles)

# *St Georges Parish Church*

## *Annual Parish Meeting*

### **Safeguarding Report**

The Safeguarding team has met three times since this time last year. In May of 2021 the Diocese began rolling out a Safeguarding dashboard for parishes to use to streamline and track progress on policies and procedures. Although many areas were fully compliant and as a parish, we moved swiftly from level one to level two some areas needed more work/ clarification. Therefore, what follows is a summary of the tasks that have been undertaken and new procedures that have been put in place.

Namely:-

- The PCC regularly approve the action plan generated by the dashboard as areas are completed or updated.
- The new Safeguarding Policy statement has been adopted by the PCC.
- DBS checks are being done in accordance with the new guidelines and continue to be maintained and updated.
- Declaration forms for all major groups within the Church have been recently updated and completed.
- Core safeguarding training has been undertaken by several members of the PCC.
- The newly appointed Church warden has completed her Leadership training.
- The Recruitment of Ex- Offenders Policy has been ratified and adopted by the PCC.
- The Choir Clubs risk assessment has been reviewed and updated using the new proforma.
- The PCC has approved the use of social media for its activities and ensured that there is a named person accountable for them.

Using the Safeguarding dashboard, we will continue to work on completing the areas associated with the nine church activities we have identified.

We also need to ensure that training is kept up to date by encouraging newly appointed members of the PCC to complete the Basic online training available. And that where necessary refresher courses are undertaken if three years have lapsed, and the person is still in post. This has already begun and will continue to be an ongoing focus in the following months. All training and availability can be accessed online via the Diocese.

In accordance with Safeguarding guidelines, we need to report that there have been no Safeguarding issues in this year, and this has been noted by the PCC.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2022. I would like to thank the PCC for their support and due regard for safeguarding. Lastly but not least my thanks to the Safeguarding team and everyone else for their support and contributions.

Alison French  
Safeguarding Officer.

St. George's Church, Cullercoats

Pastoral Care Group Report to APM - April, 2022

In addition to Father Adrian and myself, there are four other members of the above group (Brenda Mennear, Eleanor Cooke, June Gibbon and Shaun Mitchell) and we meet bi-monthly, usually after coffee following the Thursday Eucharist, to review the people receiving our support and to add others to our list, whether they be poorly or new members of our congregation.

Since the last APM, we have met on six occasions, once by Zoom and on five occasions in person. We are gradually resuming our visits to people in their homes, as well as praying for them and keeping in touch with them by telephone, text and email.

Thanks must go to Maggi Creese and now Father Adrian for compiling the newsletter, upon receipt of which I send out over fifty copies by email to those who have requested them. If you are not on my list and would like to receive the newsletter this way, then please get in touch. Hard copies are delivered by other members of the congregation to housebound members of the congregation and thanks must go to them for this vital part of our ministry.

In addition, the church continues to have a What's App group and to be on Face-book, with the 8.00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist continuing to be broadcast both on Face-book and on You Tube. Thanks must go to Helen Hughes and Paul Corrigan for facilitating the recording of the liturgy.

Whilst the "track and trace" system has been abandoned, we continue to keep a list of those who attend each Eucharist and are constantly aware of those who have not yet felt able to return to church after the pandemic. As a result, several people have been added to our pastoral contact list.

We currently have two people in care homes, four Home Communicants, two sick communicants and three people on our list for pastoral care and visiting. We have two people who are poorly and with whom we maintain contact and fifteen people for whom we have concern. Some of these people are either on our weekly intercessions' list or on our monthly prayer list.

To all who have helped, and are helping, to keep in contact with our church community, whatever their age, I send my grateful thanks and especially to the Mother's Union for distributing baptism and wedding cards and to Brenda, Eleanor, June and Shaun for all that they do, as members of the Pastoral Care Group.

Finally, please remember to let us know if you know of anyone who is sick, or in need of our prayers.

Margaret Patterson (Reader) – 31.03.22.

## HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT

### ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

#### FINANCIAL YEAR 2021

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet on a Monday morning to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father Adrian whom I pester regularly on financial matters, William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Brian McNally who patiently checks and countersigns all the cheques I place before him.

#### Overall Surplus/Deficit

Receipts exceeded Payments by £372. Gross Receipts £91651 and Gross Payments £91278.

General fund receipts £86513 and General fund payments £76441.

Restricted fund receipts £5138 and Restricted fund payments £14837

#### Receipts:

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£49472
Wedding/funeral fees	£9312
Gift aid donations	£6380
Collections	£5780
Gift aid tax refund	£4820
June 19 Gift day	£3679

Receipts from collections , wedding/funerals , special events were not quite back to pre-covid levels but were up from the 2020 amounts. Within the Gift aid total of £6380 was one very generous donation of £4500.

The Gift aid tax refund figure of £4820 is the amount we have recovered via the Parish Giving scheme.

The refund claim for the year 2020 we are owed from giving via direct standing orders, cheques and cash had not been paid by HMRC at the end of 2021.

### **Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£40500
Insurance	£10483
General maintenance	£8595
Services	£6805
Gas	£4917

We had pledged to pay £40000 parish share in 2021 and were able to meet this and add an extra £500. We have pledged £46000 for 2022.

The General maintenance payments of £8595 included £5928 chancel repairs and £1440 window repairs.

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions £1388 was donated with the money going to 12 different charities.

### **Friends of St Georges**

The Friends loaned St Georges £5146 in 2020 to pay Architects fees. At the end of 2021 the loan was still outstanding.

### **HMRC**

In early 2020 HMRC made an overpayment to us of £9321. At the end of 2021 they had still not asked for this money back. However on the other hand HMRC had not paid us our gift aid tax refund claim for 2020.

### **HSBC Bank charges**

HSBC have recently started to charge charities and community groups for transactions using cash or cheque. In order to mitigate these costs we are aiming to make as many transactions using the various online automated systems.

### **End of Year Balances and Reserves**

At year end the General fund cash balance was £35218. However the fund had liabilities of £9321 ( the money owing to HMRC ) and £5146 ( loan from the Friends ) and assets of approx. £5000 ( money HMRC owed us from 2020. The net General fund balance of £25751 equates to approx. 16 weeks normal unrestricted payments.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

March 2022



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December

2021

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	49,472		49,472	43,782
Collections at Services	12,160	1,492	13,652	3,502
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	7,113	711	7,824	8,750
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	4,820		4,820	21,703
Legacies received (capital value)		0	0	6,000
Recurring grants			0	0
Non-recurring grants	1,084	2,936	4,020	7,959
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	1,813		1,813	971
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	36		36	205
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	4,447		4,447	683
Income from trading and other church activities	702		702	687
<b>Other Income</b>	0	0	0	14,467
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>81,647</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>86,786</b>	<b>108,709</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>81,647</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>86,786</b>	<b>108,709</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	59		59	167
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		1,388	1,388	781
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	40,500		40,500	50,500
Salaries / honoraria	4,879		4,879	4,551
Expenses of clergy etc	4,450		4,450	5,692
Mission and evangelism costs	86	800	886	1,506
Church running expenses	14,473	4,737	19,210	16,633
Church utility costs	5,365		5,365	3,709
Costs of trading	1,632		1,632	1,861
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)				0
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>71,444</b>	<b>6,925</b>	<b>78,369</b>	<b>85,400</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>		8,043	8,043	10,796
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>71,444</b>	<b>14,968</b>	<b>86,412</b>	<b>96,196</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>10,203</b>	<b>(9,829)</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>12,513</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(5,063)	5,063	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>30,078</b>	<b>29,884</b>	<b>59,962</b>	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>35,218</b>	<b>25,118</b>	<b>60,336</b>	<b>12,513</b>

# Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	11,909	10,843	
	CBF deposit fund	22,725	14,275	
	Other cash funds	584		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>35,218</b>	<b>25,118</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)	OK	OK	

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Other monetary assets</b>	HMRC Gift Aid tax refund for 2020 owed to St Georges	5,000		

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>Assets retained for the PCC's own use</b>	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>Liabilities</b>	HMRC Overpayment	Unrestricted	9,321	
	Loan from Friends of St Georges	Unrestricted	5,146	

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev A hughes A Pinkett	

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2021 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

April 2022

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# Accounts

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**S GEORGE'S PARISH CHURCH**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**25 April 2021**

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH  
COUNCIL.**

- 1.1 Since our last APM, the PCC has met on three occasions. At each meeting as routine items of business the Council has considered reports from the Church's Committees and Groups, which have occurred since the last Council meeting. In addition, reports were received from representatives of Diocesan and Deanery Synods of what has occurred at meetings of the respective synods. Diocesan Budget, in that it was not sustainable to keep all fulltime the posts of Clergy in the Diocese. This meant that the number of Clergy had to be reduced and would involve Parishes being required to work together to share Clergy resources. Therefore, at the request of Deanery Synod the Council has discussed this and considered who we may consider linking up with, given that we receive the episcopal ministry of the Bishop of Beverley with the consent of the Bishop of Newcastle. Discussions on this continue at Deanery level.**
- 1.2 The Council's Annual Meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October last, with the usual items of business, namely, the election of officers for the year, ie. Andrew Pinkett as Hon. Treasurer and myself as Hon. Secretary. Mr Michael Nicholson was elected as Lay Vice Chairman. The meeting also considered the terms of office of the Lay Members of the Council and the appointment of Committees and Groups. The Council has also considered the project of the redevelopment of the Church Hall and the establishment of a Charitable Company to oversee its development and future management on behalf of the PCC. To this end we discussed a Briefing Paper which set out the current situation and possible next steps. Following a detailed discussion, the Council felt that the current proposal of establishing a Charitable Trust to manage and erect a new hall be paused and enquires be made to establish the possible costs involved in keeping the present building but making it "fit for purpose" for say the next twenty years.**
- 1.3 This has been a further busy period for the Council considering the present circumstances and ensuring the appropriate Risk Assessments have been carried out and measures taken to ensure the Church and any activities allowed have been COVID 19 secure. The meetings have been well attended. As indicated above, reports have been received at each meeting from the various committees and Groups. The Fabric Committee have kept Council updated on the progress of work being undertaken with the Architect and details of the repairs, which have been completed throughout the period.**

**Repairs to the clearstory windows and stonework together with stonework repairs to the Apse have been completed. (Details of this work are referred to in the Church Wardens Report.)**

**1.4 As part of our “Keeping in Touch” initiative during lockdown and during this period a Newsletter has been circulated to the congregation by email and “hard copy”, including its delivery to those shielding or unable to be with us. It has not been possible to produce a Magazine during this period. The Council decided that we should keep our present system of publishing a Newsletter in its present form, with the publication of an expanded edition from time to time.**

**1.5 During this period, it has not been possible to have any social events which would have been well supported and enjoyed by all. We look forward to the time when we can again have such events as concerts, choral evensong etc. The Friends of St George’s also have been quiet given the present situation but have managed to hold their Annual Meeting and secure some funding from donations and subscriptions.**

**1.6 There have been some items of correspondence received, which have been considered and decisions made on how to take them forward.**

**1.7 As previously reported the Council has adopted the latest Diocesan Model Safeguarding Policy together with a paper entitled “Safer Working Practices” which sits alongside the Model. A Statement on Domestic Abuse and a new Confidential Declaration Form was also endorsed. Arrangements have been made for additional appropriate members of the church who work with children and vulnerable people to be checked and registered accordingly. A copy of the Policy is shown on the Church’s Website and lists of the people concerned are held with the Council’s official records. The Council has received regular reports the Parish Safeguarding Officer, including the completion of Declaration forms by Members of the PCC and others including those working with children, vulnerable people and others. As a result, I would state that the Council has complied with its duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). (Further information is in the Parish safeguarding Officer’s Report).**

**1.8 As stated above, discussions regarding Church Services have taken place and decisions taken having regard to COVID 19 Guidance issued by the Church of England.**

**1.9 Further development of the Choir is largely on hold under Andrew Reid as our Director of Music and his wife Louise. The “Choir Club” has met virtually and either a cantor or when permitted a small choir has sung at the 9.30 service on Sundays or other special midweek services.**

**2.0 Two members of the Council are to stand down this year, namely, Mr Philip Hornby and Mrs Liz Lynn. I would like to thank them on behalf of the PCC for their services to the Council and the Church.**

**I would also like to express my thanks to everyone for their support.**

**B McNally.  
Honorary Secretary.**

**April 2021.**

## **SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH CULLERCOATS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021 - CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT**

I am pleased to present this report for the year 2020/2021

Both Blyth and I would like to give our thanks to Fr. Adrian for his support and help during the year. We would also like to thank all who have assisted us during the year. A special thank you to the Readers and Intercessors, together with all the volunteers, for their contributions and ensuring that services run smoothly. May we also thank the retired clergy who assist so frequently filling in for services, without them it would be a struggle to maintain the number of services which are offered.

A special thanks to Maurice and Andrew who have been in church on Sundays throughout the time that we have been able to have services. The main reason that we have been able to carry on with worship is the care put in to ensure social distancing when the congregation is entering, taking communion, and exiting the church.

Regretfully all those events that that we look forward to throughout the year have been unable to carry on, but hopefully there is light ahead and as the year progresses, we may be able to have some get togethers and return to a more normal way of life. We would normally give a Fabric Committee report but except for the repairs to the Clerestorey and Apse windows there has not been any work undertaken. Repairs are necessary to the ground floor windows and hope to be able to have those carried out in the near future. Hopefully with little disruption to services.

Churchwardens have responsibilities to the Incumbent, the Archdeacon, and the Bishop.

Normally we would attend a church in the Diocese to hear the Archdeacon's charge and be sworn in. this was all done on Zoom this year.

We also have responsibility to ensure the inventory of Church belongings is up to date and accurate, and once again we have carried out an audit, and found everything to be satisfactory. Once every two years we also have a visit from the Archdeacon who carries out an inspection, according to our records we were due a visit this year, but it never took place. Maybe this year?

I can also report that the insurances for the church buildings and contents are up to date, together with those for the church hall. Our CCLI Licence for music has also been paid. Currently the premiums that are paid for insurances are:

Church	& Church Hall	£10458.52
CCLI		£239.00

Thank you all again for you much valued support.

Blyth Johnson  
Michael Nicholson

#### Deanery Synod Report to APM – April 2021

Since the last APM, Deanery Synod has just met twice three times, in November and March, with me, Margaret Patterson and Aubrey Bowles as representatives from St. George's.

The Revd. Tim Mayfield is Area Dean, in July with Emma Doran as Lay Chair and Dr. Iain Shaw as Finance Officer, and Jan Porter remaining as Secretary and the post of Treasurer, currently vacant.

Each meeting has begun with parish representatives asking for prayer for a particular aspect of their parish life. News has been given of comings and goings within the Deanery and reports have been received from Diocesan and General Synods.

The Bishop of Berwick was present at the November meeting and spoke about the challenges facing the Deanery and the Diocese including the existing financial crisis which had exacerbated by the COVID 19 virus and lockdown. The Synod then considered some ways forward. The new Deanery Development Group was set up with me on from St George's. A presentation was also given by the Deanery Finance Officer on Parish Share giving the latest figures and stating that our position in the Diocese was above average.

At the time of writing, the next Synod meeting was scheduled to be on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, when the main items to be discussed will be, a Deanery Mission Enabler (new estates) Revd. Dr Rae Caro, Deanery Development Group and its work so far, (Parish Reorganisation) and a talk on Parish Share.

Regarding Parishes, it is interesting to note that there are vacancies at St. Mark, Shiremoor, St. Luke and St. Peter, Wallsend and St. Aidan, Billy Mill and St. Hilda, Marden. We need to pray for and support these parishes whenever we can and give thanks for the ministry of the Revd. Canon Adrian Hughes here at St. George's.

Brian McNally.

# *St Georges Parish Church*

## *Annual Parish Meeting*

### **Safeguarding Report**

The Safeguarding team met in January 2020 and have been unable to meet since due to the Corona virus pandemic.

However, our Safeguarding policies and practises remain in effect. And DBS checks are continuing to be maintained and update in accordance with the guidelines.

As and when we are able to, we will: -

- Re assess our priorities in terms of Safeguarding, and the tasks and new procedures that may need to be put in place.
- Continue to roll out the new Declaration forms (particularly for new PCC members).
- Ensure that training is up to date (in particular for the Pastoral group and new PCC members).

It needs to be noted that currently training from the Diocese is available online. Foundation Safeguarding (Basic Awareness (CO)) can be done online. While C1 and C2 can be booked online, and details will be issued re workbooks and zoom details if applicable.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the Safeguarding team and the PCC for their support and due regard for Safeguarding in these difficult times.

This concludes the Safeguarding annual report for 2021.

Alison French  
Safeguarding Officer.

St. George's Church, Cullercoats  
Pastoral Care Group Report to APM - April, 2021

In addition to the clergy and myself, there are four other members of the above group (Brenda Mennear, Eleanor Cooke, June Gibbon and Shaun Mitchell) and under normal circumstances we meet bi-monthly, usually after coffee following the Thursday Eucharist, to review the people receiving our support and to add others to our list. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, things have changed, but, by the time of the APM, we will, for the first time, have met by Zoom.

The pastoral meetings, residential care home and Eucharistic visits may have gone during the pandemic, but the work of the group has continued, as we have prayed for people and kept in touch with them by telephone, text and email.

Thanks must go to Maggi Creese for compiling the newsletter and I, for one, send out over forty copies by email, as do Father Adrian, Brian McNally, Louise Reid and Gordon and Sheila Wightman, whilst. Father Adrian, David and Maggi Creese, Sarah Gregg, Heather Wright and Martin Hood deliver hard copies.

In addition, a What's App group has been established and the church is now on Face-book, with church services being broadcast from the 8.00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist on You Tube (as well as on Face-book). This means that the Eucharist is accessible to anyone without having to download software. Thanks must go to Helen Hughes and Paul Corrigan for facilitating the recording of the liturgy.

The church has also introduced a "track and trace" system, which provides us with a snapshot of those present at services and those shielding. Numbers of people staying away has increased since the last lock-down, which began after Christmas, but it is pleasing to note that some new people have joined us.

Because of the pandemic, St. George's Hospital Wheelers have not been needed at North Tyneside General Hospital. However, my appeal for people to do crafting for the hospitals of the Northumbria Healthcare Trust has borne much fruit, as was illustrated in my article which was recently sent round with the newsletter.

On top of all this, there is a lot of unseen work going on, of which I heard a fine example the other day.

To all who have helped, and are helping, to keep the church family together, during these difficult days, I send my grateful thanks and love and prayers.

Finally, I am sorry to say that we have lost several members of the church family since my last report and with the Chairman's permission I would like us to stand for a minute's silence to remember them.

Margaret Patterson (Reader) – 05.03.21.

## HONOURARY TREASURER'S REPORT

### ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

#### FINANCIAL YEAR 2020

Before I make comments on the Accounts I would like to thank those other people who play an active and important part in managing the finance of this church. A very loyal, but small group of people meet to open planned giving envelopes, reconcile loose cash, record monies against income categories and take these monies to the bank. I know that this group works diligently and unseen but make my task that much easier. I would like to thank the Planned Giving team who keep the records on planned giving and deal with all the Inland Revenue returns. Others I would like to mention are Father Adrian whom I pester regularly on financial matters, William Burgess the Honorary Auditor whose support and help is much appreciated and Brian McNally who patiently checks and countersigns all the cheques I place before him.

#### Overall Surplus/Deficit

Receipts exceeded Payments by £12516 but this 'surplus' hides the fact that due to Covid-19 2020 was a challenging year.

#### Receipts:

Our principal receipts were

Planned Giving	£43782
Gift Aid tax refund	£21703
Misc receipts	£11003
Church Maintenance	£7068
Legacies	£6000
Restricted Donations	£5146

Income from Planned giving was down from previous years but this may be explained by the lockdown late in the year and the income from some weekly envelopes not being banked by financial year end.

Gift Aid tax refund of £21703 included arrears of £11321 which HMRC owed us from a previous year. Having paid us these arrears they then incorrectly credited our bank account with a further £9321 at a later date. We made them aware of this but by financial year end HMRC had not yet requested repayment. This overpayment is included in the Misc Receipts figure above.

The church maintenance figure of £7068 includes an anonymous donation of £3000.

The Friends of St Georges loaned us £5146 to pay for Architects fees. As the loan was for a specific purpose it has been treated as a Restricted donation for accounting purposes.

As expected income from collections, hall rent, fayres, concerts, wedding /funerals, coffee fund were significantly down. Here are some comparisons;

	2019	2020
Collections	12326	2556
Voluntary Income	6309	2761
Hall Rent	2236	400
Wedding/funeral fees	10831	4775

Our Director of Music Andrew Reid spent various times in 2020 furloughed and we claimed £1790 through the Job Retention grant scheme.

To put into some context. In 2020 gross receipts were £112804. But of this £14467 were the overpayment from HMRC and the loan from the Friends. These will need to be repaid. In addition £17690 was from grants, legacies and one off donations. So approx. £32100 of gross receipts were from 'non-recurring' sources. Receipts from 'recurring' sources were therefore approx. £80700. By comparison 2019 receipts from recurring sources were approx. £94000.

### **Payments:**

Our principal payments were

Parish share	£50500
Insurance	£10358
Services	£6823
General maintenance	£5604
Restricted donations	£5192

We had pledged to pay £50500 Parish share in 2020 and we achieved this though it did require us to use some of our Reserves. In the light of this and due to the continuing uncertainty around income we have made a pledge to pay £40000 Parish share in 2021.

General maintenance of £5604 was on the Clerestory repairs and the bulk of the Restricted donations payments were the Architects fees.

Our contributions towards charities has continued. Half of the collections raised from weddings, baptisms and funerals is given to a charity nominated by the families. Despite the Covid-19 restrictions £781 was donated with the money going to 9 different charities.

### **End of Year Balances and Reserves**

At year end the General fund cash balance was £30078. However the fund had liabilities of £14467 ( the money owing to HMRC and the loan from the Friends ). The net General fund balance of £15611 equates to approx. 9 weeks normal unrestricted payments.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone for their support throughout the year.

A J PINKETT  
Treasurer

March 2021



Name of PCC

ST GEORGES CULLERCOATS

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the year from 1 January to 31 December 2020

### Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income:</b>				
Planned giving net of tax	43,782		43,782	48,851
Collections of loose cash	3,234	268	3,502	16,684
Other giving and donations (recurring and non-recurring)	1,682	7,068	8,750	4,742
Tax recovered via Gift Aid	21,703		21,703	3,081
Legacies received (capital value)		6,000	6,000	200
Recurring grants			0	0
Non-recurring grants	1,790	6,169	7,959	430
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>	971		971	6,309
<b>Investment Income (including Property)</b>	205		205	266
<b>Receipts from Church Activities:</b>				
Parochial fees	683		683	5,325
Income from trading and other church activities	687		687	2,943
<b>Other Income</b>	9,321	5,146	14,467	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>84,058</b>	<b>24,651</b>	<b>108,709</b>	<b>88,831</b>
<b>Asset &amp; investment sales, etc.</b>			0	0
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>84,058</b>	<b>24,651</b>	<b>108,709</b>	<b>88,831</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Costs of Generating Funds</b>	167		167	109
<b>Mission / Charitable Grants</b>		781	781	3,153
<b>Church Activities:</b>				
Diocesan parish share	50,500		50,500	50,000
Salaries / honoraria	4,551		4,551	5,300
Expenses of clergy etc	5,692		5,692	4,073
Mission and evangelism costs	427	1,079	1,506	1,106
Church running expenses	14,612	2,021	16,633	19,487
Church utility costs	3,709		3,709	4,858
Costs of trading	1,861		1,861	2,584
Costs of other activities (not fund-raising)				0
<b>Governance costs</b>			0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>81,519</b>	<b>3,881</b>	<b>85,400</b>	<b>90,670</b>
<b>Major repairs and building works</b>		10,796	10,796	0
<b>Asset &amp; investment purchases</b>			0	0
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>81,519</b>	<b>14,677</b>	<b>96,196</b>	<b>90,670</b>
<b>Receipts minus (payments)</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>9,974</b>	<b>12,513</b>	<b>(1,839)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	(635)	635	0	
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>28,174</b>	<b>19,275</b>	<b>47,449</b>	
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>30,078</b>	<b>29,884</b>	<b>59,962</b>	<b>(1,839)</b>

## Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>Cash funds</b>	Bank current account	7,014	15,611	
	CBF deposit fund	22,725	14,275	
	Other cash funds	339		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>30,078</b>	<b>29,886</b>	<b>-</b>

(agree balances with receipts and payments accounts)

OK

OK

Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £

Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)

Assets retained for the PCC's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	. The Parish Hall. It is not possible to put an accurate valuation on the land and building			

Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	HMRC Overpayment	Unrestricted	9,321	
	Loan from Friends of St Georges	Unrestricted	5,146	
	Chancel repairs	Restricted	5,928	
	Architects fees	Restricted	675	

Signed by the chairman of the PCC and the treasurer or a church warden on behalf of the PCC

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Rev A hughes	25/04/2021
	A Pinkett	25/04/2021

## **An Independent Examiner's Report**

To the PCC of St George's Cullercoats.

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2020 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - ◆ to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - ◆ to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr W Burgess

March 2021