

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD PCC

England & Wales · Charity number 1190509

Details

Other names	ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, FATFIELD, ST GEORGE'S, FATFIELD
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2020-07-22
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	St. Georges Church Vigo Lane Harraton Washington TYNE & WEAR NE38 9AH
Phone	01914154200
Email	office@stgeorgesfatfield.org.uk
Website	www.stgeorgesfatfield.org.uk

Activities

Objects: PROMOTING IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH THE WHOLE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.

Activities: St George's Church is active in its local community providing for & supporting all who contact us regardless of faith through practical support, counselling, faith based activities and services of worship. Our activities include, but are not limited to, bereavement support, one to one counselling, lunch club, drop ins and community groups, youth & children's work, food bank, community cafe & more

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Religious Activities
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Durham
- Gateshead
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£125,718	£131,568	-	-
2024-12-31	£508,828	£121,735	£1,192,962	2
2023-12-31	£627,389	£88,416	£805,869	1
2022-12-31	£136,293	£97,302	-	-
2021-12-31	£205,254	£86,581	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christine Hope	Chair	2019-04-23
Alan Cadas		2026-04-26
Andrea Pritchard		2020-10-26
Anna Snell		2023-05-09
Clive Bowman		2024-05-19
Douglas Green		2021-05-11
Eileen Fletcher		2024-05-19
Eve Winstanley		2015-03-24
Gail Watson		2021-05-11
George Len Adams		2022-05-10
Leslie Stevens		2018-04-17
Lynn Wyatt		2025-05-18
Maurice Taylor		1980-04-10
Megan Hepworth		2025-05-18
Patricia Hampton-Matthews		1980-04-10
Ross Kendall		2023-05-09
Ruth Forster		2024-05-19
Terry Wyatt		2024-05-19
Thomas Peter Lawson		2026-04-26

Accounts

Charity number: 1190509

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

UNAUDITED

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31
DECEMBER 2025**

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

Trustees' Report

Independent Examiner's Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to the Financial Statements

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements:

Church Reports

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND
ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Trustees.

Mrs Christine Hope, Warden
Mr Terry Wyatt, Warden
Mr Maurice Taylor, Reader
Mrs Patricia Hampton Matthews, Reader
Mrs Eve Winstanley, APA
Mr Douglas Green, Treasurer
Mr George Len Adams, Elected member
Mrs Lynn Wyatt, Deanery Synod Representative
Mr Clive Bowman, Elected member
Mrs Megan Hepworth, Elected member
Mrs Eileen Fletcher, Elected member
Mrs Ruth Forster, Elected member
Mr. Ross Kendall, Elected member
Mrs Andrea Pritchard, Elected member
Mrs Anna Snell, Elected representative
Mrs Leslie Stevens, Elected representative
Mrs Gail Watson, Elected representative

Charity registered number. 1190509

Principle office

Vigo Lane
Harraton,
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE38 9AH

Secretary

Mrs Ruth Forster

Independent Examiner.

Mr CF Forster
10 Swinhope,
Rickleton
Washington
NE38 9HR

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
P.O. Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME 19 4JQ
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in His church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

● Policies and objectives

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health and Safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support an incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- i worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. To this end there are study groups;
- i provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) community drop in coffee mornings, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth group, a warm space initiative and a number of other community groups; and
- i Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and have facilities fit for use in the 21st Century. During the year work to construct a new community annexe onto the church building was completed (bar snagging and some minor works). This will better enable us to achieve the objectives of the charity and help us become more sustainable.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

● Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. Over 50 people are involved in volunteering at St George's. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them all by name, but you work in service of Christ, and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
(CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Objectives and activities (continued)

● **Safeguarding**

Mr Doug Green served as the elected Safeguarding Officer through 2025 with Mrs Leslie Stevens serving as deputy.

The PCC of St George's have adopted and pay due regard to safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the internal notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

Achievements and performance

● **Main achievements of the Charity**

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports the local community with. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community, including, community meals, and Easter & Christmas craft cafes.

All are welcome to our regular services. Weekly we have three services to which on average over 100 people attend, including over 10 young people. There are 104 parishioners on the electoral roll. We welcome visitors on most Sundays of the year and to all activities.

In addition to our regular services and groups, we conduct baptisms and occasional weddings, as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service.

Our Easter and Christmas services followed our normal pattern in 2025, along with some new activities thanks to the new annexe and terrace, including an outdoor 'Carols on the Terrace' event. The church continued to hold funerals and burials in 2025, and the churchyard is now all but full.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision.

The community café has continued to serve the community. This community café is named 'The Table'. A café manager has been employed, but the café is volunteer run.

Vision: 'The Table' will bless people in Jesus' name by providing a welcoming, inclusive community space that serves God through its Christian ethos.

Mission: We are a community café, providing a warm welcome and safe space for all, serving God's food, love & prayer at 'The Table'. We aim to show love & grace to everyone and open our doors to the local community and its needs.

It aims to provide sustainable, healthy and affordable food to people in the local community and support the vision for the Annexe as a whole to become a 'hub' for the community. We are grateful for support from Sunderland City council and The Community Foundation to support this initiative.

During the year, funding was also received to install a photovoltaic/battery system to cut our carbon footprint as well as reduce costs of the kitchen.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Cont.)

FOR: THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

- **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

- **Reserves policy**

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover three months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th, 2025.

For year-end 2025 there remained a restricted fund for the Annexe Project that will be spent in 2026 on the final bills for the new annexe building project and the retention due in 2026. However final figures from contractor, architect and consultants exceed initial expectations and will provide some future challenges for the church's finances

- **Risk management**

The Trustees are responsible for risk management within the church.

A general risk assessment of the building is in place for all users. Each group that operates within the church is expected to have considered risk in how they operate and risk assessments are expected where significant risks are identified.

Given its scale and cost, a substantial Risk Management document for the Community Annexe Project was produced with support from the professional team and risk is regularly discussed at Trustee meetings. This has been used through the project.

Our regular ongoing operations are predominantly funded through regular local giving by church members with no one individual being substantial enough to present a significant risk to church finances. The church is having to closely monitor financial income and expenditure and has had a plan accepted by the Diocese to realign finance in coming years.

Safeguarding risk is managed through paying due regard to the guidance from the Church of England and ensuring all relevant volunteers are safeguarding trained and DBS checked.

Risk assessments of activities are carried out. The church ensures its insurance is fit for purpose and a Health and Safety policy is in place and reviewed annually. External users are expected to follow our policies or have their own suitable policies in places for risk and safeguarding.

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
(CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

● **Financial review for the year**

The Financial review produced by our Treasurer and independently examined is available later in this document. The PCC are incredibly grateful to all who give financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

2025 has been a very challenging year mainly due to uncertainty concerning the costs relating to the new build and the cost-of-living crises impacting on giving. However, it is important that we praise God that, he has guided us throughout the year and helped to maintain all aspects of Church life and indeed supported us in establishing some new opportunities. At the end of the year, we finished with a deficit of £5850. However, the deficit would have been much larger if the church had not received some grants. Earlier in the year I was sure that the deficit would have been even larger, mainly due to the different patterns of giving that developed over the year and the lack of income from some activities. Also, due to the uncertainty of the impact of the new build on Church giving. But the stalwart members of this church and faith in God proved me wrong. As in the previous year, giving was down on the plate and some of the envelope giving was down. But the donations, grants, gift aid and other activities such as 'Cuppa, Cake and Company' contributed towards our income.

The financial breakdown for 2025 can be found later in this report

The Table has contributed to the life of the church throughout 2025. The appointment of a Café Manager has enhanced the work of the Table. The Table has benefited from some grants, to support the café manager's salary. The Table has been supported by a significant number of volunteers.

Reference to the Table accounts is shown later in the report

Throughout the year I have been supported by a two people. I would like to thank Lynn Wyatt for her work in supporting the church in applying for and obtaining gift aid. Secondly, I would like to thank Lorraine Cook for her work in supporting me through a very challenging year of financial matters. I would like to thank both Lynn and Lorraine for regularly counting money throughout the year. I would certainly not be able to do my job if it were not for their continued support. I thank God for both.

Doug Green (Treasurer)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
(CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Structure, governance and management

● **Constitution**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

● **Methods of appointment or election of Trustees**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and authorised pastoral assistants (APAs), any members of CofE Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and those co-opted by the PCC.

● **Organisational structure and decision-making policies**

The full PCC (Trustees) meets nine times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings Group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee/Vacancy Group has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting.

The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, Whistle Blowing, Anti-Fraud, Domestic Abuse, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

● **Financial risk management**

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

● **Administration**

St George's Church is found at Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington NE38 9AH. It is an Anglican Church of England church within the diocese of Durham. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

The day-to-day management of church activities is delegated to the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook, who we thank for her diligent and effective work in keeping the organisation of everything running smoothly.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**TRUSTEES' REPORT
(CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Plans for future periods

2026 will see us continue to take the church forward in a very changed world. Heating costs remain high, but with the new Community Annexe completed, much of our work will take place in a modern well insulated and efficient building. Worship will continue in our Victorian church building.

2026 will see a continuing step chain in how we achieve our aims and purpose. The launch of a community café/Annex, has opened new opportunities, and the employment of a café manager will further grow opportunities, to work with partners in supporting our community, where there are many isolated, lonely and vulnerable people. These changes bring a level of uncertainty as further funding will be needed, but we will work with others, including the VCS (Voluntary Community Sector) and the social enterprise support team of the BIC (Business and Innovation Centre) Sunderland to help deliver the business plan.

While the annexe construction project was all encompassing for most of 2025 and the final snagging is still creating a lot of work, we must also keep focussed on the primary objectives of the church to spread the news of Jesus Christ, care for our community and the wider world. We will continue to work with partners, including Washington Community Food Project and Active Families North-East to serve and support people in our community.

The Pastoral team has grown and plans to develop its mission and ministry further in 2026. A monthly youth club, youth film club and a men's hub and a women's hub have been established

Independent examination

Our income this year has not exceeded the £250,000 threshold where we can report on a receipts and payments basis. The accounts have been prepared and examined by an Independent Examiner, Mr CF Forster for 2025.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**(CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 5 May 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Terry Wyatt & Christine Hope

Church Wardens

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S
REPORT FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

1 March 2026

The Trustees
St George's Church Fatfield PCC
Vigo Lane
Harraton
Washington
NE38 9AH

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St George's Church, Fatfield PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St George's Church, Fatfield PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

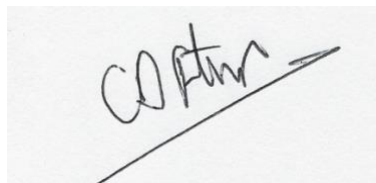
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Signed:

Name: Charles Dixon Forster

Address: 10 Swinhope, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9HR

Date: 1 March 2026

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Income

	Actual 24	Budget 25	Actual 25
<u>Giving</u>			
Gift Aided	32780	37000	34341
HMRC tax refund	9520	12000	9328
Other Planned Giving	10169	11000	8565
Loose Plate	2446	3000	3054
Donations to Church	7350	4000	3130
PCC Fees	3971	4000	4154
Hire of Rooms	1200	2500	3615
Café heating			1200
Solar Panels			291
<u>Other</u>			
<u>Income</u>			
Photocopying	2	30	2
Refreshment s		0	0
Coffee and Cake	4438	4000	4769
Craft Days			
Book of Remembrance			200
Commonwealth war graves			
Quinquennial			0
DDBF Assigned Fees	3431	3600	2415
Fees Organist/Verger	1810	1500	1240
Events and teas	457		262
Soup and Bun	307		
Toddlers	728	800	700
Ukelele			
Group	378	350	538
Craft Days			14
Books	45	50	
 Solar Panels grant	 10240		
Fac. Fees	7605		678
Specific grants	13600		17859

Café Manager grant			21821
Café Manager costs			2153
Lunch club grant			1728
Grave fees			90
Food and fun	28		
Men's Club			564
Streaming			30
Café Inc			2022
Salary	6983		
Vicars			
Present			955
TOTAL INCOME	117488	83830	<u>125718</u>
New Build			
Grants		40376	
Donations		25934	

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

Expenditure	Actual 2024	budget 2025	Actual 2025
<u>Church Costs</u>			
Parish Share	33000	43000	45000
Upkeep of Services	1573	1650	1018
Licence renewal		1000	580
Projector/AV System	1325	1100	5082
Reimbursed Meet & Eat			
Headstone			
<u>Church Building Costs</u>			
Insurance	6048	5300	3333
Heating & Lighting	11578	14000	11993
Water	107	140	107
Boiler Service Contracts	120	250	142
Church Maintenance	1327	3000	4931
Fire Safety Maintenance	0	200	
Cleaning	143	150	124
Churchyard Maintenance	506	400	306
Electricity Supply	0	0	3265
Quinquennial	0	0	1416
Water Rates	1224	550	404
<u>Administration Costs</u>			
Administrator salary	12130	13000	12972
Telephone & Broadband	697	370	638
Photocopying	616	400	1031
Stationery & Postage	53	200	267
Café			
Manager	12416		17179
Web Page	72	100	90
DDBF Assigned Costs	4936	2398	2398
Donations paid on	3478	347	347
Fees Organist, Verger	1810	1600	1140
Sundry Office costs	0		60
Book of remembrance	0		73
Lettings -open & Close			323
DBS checks	62	80	154
Christmas Delivery			65
Streaming			30
HRMC/Nest	2546		5225
Accountants	1920	2000	2040
Warm Space	534		

Ann Loan	3142		
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Mission

Costs

lunch club		240	140
Tracts & Printing	136	400	110
Refreshments	523	700	745
Lunches			140
Men's Club			882
Children's work & craft	193	300	187
course fees	608	200	
WORLD GIVING	7050	5500	5424
Outreach	286		
Youth Group			95
Vicars			
Present		1000	955
sundry expenses	375	1000	271
Books	95	100	526
Fac for graves	281	200	50
Headstone app	55		
Christ Cards	109		310
Water Rates house	525		
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	111599	100875	131568

New Build	780281	113929
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**Year's deficit
on routine
Church
Activities
5850**

The Table

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

66051

40520

Parishioner Meeting & APCM Sunday 26th April 2026

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
 2. Apologies
 3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on 18th May 2025
 4. Matters arising
 5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
 6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)
 - Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)
 - Safeguarding
 - Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.
 7. Elections
- PCC (4 persons for 3 years)
8. Appointment of External Examiner
 9. Any other business

Annexe to the Report and Accounts of St George's Church Fatfield

Index

- Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as the Vestry Meeting): 18th May 2025
- Annual Parochial Church Meeting: Sunday 18th May 2025
- Church Warden's Report
- Vacancy Standing Committee
- School's Ministry
- Meet & Eat
- Men's Hub Report
- Youth Film Club
- Craft and Chatter Group
- World Giving
- Cuppa, Cake and Company (CCC)
- Safeguarding Report
- Toddlers
- Children's Group Sunday 10am Service
- Electoral Roll Officer
- Pastoral Team Report and Prayers for the Sick
- Building Group
- Cleaning Team
- Church Administrator's Report
- Youth Group
- Washington Community Food Project
- Ladies Group
- Café Manager Report

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, FATFIELD

Minutes of the Annual Report to Parishioners Meeting held on Sunday 18th May 2025 after the 10.00 am Service

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)

1 Opening Prayer & Worship

NBH opened by welcoming all attending the meeting and reminded people about the two meetings, the first open to all, the second to church members on electoral roll. He prayed for the meeting and gave thanks for those serving the church and standing for various roles.

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The document containing the annual report and accounts and been sent out by e-mail and there were copies available to borrow and read in church. NBH asked if there were any queries and whether anyone had spotted any errors or omissions of substance in the minutes from last year. There was nothing raised so it was proposed that these were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting of 19th May, proposed by Chris Hope & seconded by Lucy Barr-Hamilton with 21 votes for & 6 abstentions.

1. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Election of Wardens

NBH stated that there were two nominations. Chris Hope nominated by Doug Green, seconded by Doug Green, and Terry Wyatt Nominated by Chris Hope and seconded by Robert Purvis. As there were two nominations only, no vote was needed and NBH declared they were duly appointed as Church Wardens. He then thanked Chris and Terry for all they do for the church and for Nick and his family over the last 13 years. He asked people to pray for them as they will carry a lot during the interregnum. Several members prayed for both CH & TW. The Vestry Meeting was closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Opening Prayer

NBH opened this meeting by prayer, asking that we would be guided by the Spirit through the meeting

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Doug Green, Ross Kendall, Lynn green, N Owen, D Owen, Audrey Raynor, Denise Young, Sheila Beale, Marjorie Thomas, Margaret Birrell, Maureen Nevitt, Clive Bowman, Maureen Bowman, Lynn Wyatt, Maurice Taylor, Elizabeth Taylor, Pat Davis, Lucille Hutchinson, Tom Weddell, Betty Weddell, Peter Watson.

Attendees at meeting were:- Betty Adams, Len Adams, Elspeth Baird, Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Nick Barr-Hamilton, Sylvia Baskaran, Margaret Bianchi, Rob Bianchi, Harry Ellis, Norman Fatherley, Sheila Fatherley, Eileen Fletcher, Ruth Forster, Joan Greener, Christine Hope, Jenny Hughes, Jo Lawson, Heather Livingstone, Pat Matthews, Andrea

Pritchard, Keith Robson, Leslie Stevens, Marion Toomey, Gail Watson, Avril Winship, & Eve Winstanley, Terry Wyatt.

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting on 19th May 2024

The minutes of the 2024 meeting had been published and were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting of 19th May 2024; proposed by Terry Wyatt, seconded by Gail Watson, with 21 votes for & 6 abstentions. It was noted that the year of the meetings needed correcting on the agenda/minutes.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Eve Winstanley, our Electoral Roll Officer, remarked that the roll had been renewed from scratch as is required every 6 years. We now have 106 names on the Electoral Roll. A question was asked as to whether that was up or down on previous years. It had declined, mainly due to the loss of some faithful saints over the past couple of years. It was pleasing to see a lot of new names too. Nick commented that many people often belong before they believe and the number we get at our outreach who now see this as their church but don't yet worship on Sundays with us is very large.

6. Presentation of Reports, (as circulated previously)

NBH said if you've looked through the report you will see an immense amount goes on here and with the new building completed and astonishing year has occurred. A new community café, lots of new activities and many new people visiting for the first time. Much to give thanks for. Several statutory reports were noted.

- Wardens' Report: NBH asked CH/TW if they wished to say anything. Nothing to add, but echoed thanks to many volunteers. No questions were asked.
- Safeguarding: A fundamental part of any organisation working with young people and vulnerable adults. Doug Green (safeguarding officer) was away, but Leslie Stevens (deputy) reminded everyone that it is not just them, but everyone in the church who should be thinking about safeguarding. Church is almost unique in its setup verses other organisations in the way people mix and work together. NBH confirmed that there had been no incidents to report on and gave thanks.
- Deanery Synod: NBH advised that little of any note had happened on Deanery Synod and it seemed almost anachronistic. Someone summed it up as 'a cold church and a hard pew!'
- Treasurer's Report: DG was away. NBH noted the necessity of the more professional and complex accounts given income for the annexe works, but was more than happy to answer questions. A proposal by Eileen Fletcher, seconded by Ruth Forster was made that the 2024 Church Accounts be accepted by the APCM. I was carried unanimously. NBH commented that there was much to give thanks to God for that the finances and generosity of many.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years)

NBH thanked those who serve as PCC members, which as a registered charity is also the board of trustees. They have clear responsibilities set out in law. There were just 3 nominations, Len Adams – nominated by Norman Fartherley seconded by Pat Matthews, Pat Matthews nominated by Len Adams & Ruth Forster, thirdly Megan Hepworth, Nominated by Maurice Hepworth and Lucille Hutchinson. They were appointed as no election was needed. Lynn Wyatt also stood for one of the casual vacancies of Deanery Synod, nominated by Ruth Forster and seconded by Joanne Lawson and was duly appointed. Lucy Barr-Hamilton will be resigning from Diocesan Synod as we leave so will come off all synods and PCC. All new trustees must be DBS checked and safeguarding trained before taking up post.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

NBH officially thanked our intendent examiner and accountants, Kinnair Associates. PCC had voted to recommend we continue to use them for the following year, but this is an APCM decision as the annual meeting is where the trustees are held to account with the finances of the church and therefore members appoint the IE to ensure the accounts are accurate. This was proposed by Len Adams and seconded by eve Winstanley and carried unanimously.

9. Chairman's Report

NBH remarked that he had said much in his sermon during the connected APCM service of worship so would not add anything more here, rather invited church members to share some good news where they have seen the Lord at work in their life or in the church. A number of people shared good news stories to be thankful for and also wanted to give thanks for volunteers, people's hard work and what God was doing in people's lives, especially the youth group as well as people's prayers and faith that have brought the café/annexe to fruition. We were reminded to keep looking forward to the opportunities and what more could take place in this church of Christ, but it was sad to be losing Nick & Lucy. It was commented that Nadine was a gift from God, very capable and way more than just a café manager with a faith and love that spoke volumes to many non church member volunteers who had noted that they did not know that 'church' could be like this.

10. Any Other Business

There being no further business & NBH thanked all who were in attendance for coming and reiterated his thanks for everyone who serves in so many different ways as well as thanked people for all the support they had shown him over the past 13 years. We need to continue mission in meeting people where they are at. The vision for a 6 days a week community café began 9 years ago and the name was picked last year and now it is a thriving ministry and social enterprise. God is no doubt with it and it is part of his plans. The meeting closed with prayer committing everything discussed into His hands, & the Grace was said to finish.

Church Warden's Report

As always, we give a huge thanks to the wonderful congregation at St. George's. We are truly blessed; the support and prayers of our Church family is a vital support. The graveyard looks lovely, thanks to the volunteers who faithfully tend it. Ditto the inside of the building, it too is looked after by a dedicated group of volunteers.

Sunday 10am service – it continues to bring the largest congregation, being a mixture of adults and children. This past year we have welcomed some newcomers, and as always, we optimistically hope this next year will bring more newcomers with whom we may share the word of God.

Sunday 4pm service - it is steady, faithful group, who worship regularly. For this and the 10am service our worship is enhanced by Jo Anne playing the piano, and Rob with his guitar, plus a small but enthusiastic choir. We praise God for their dedication.

Wednesday 9.30. Over the past few years, we have lost several regular members of this group; some have died whilst others have health problems. However, a faithful group remains. It is a peaceful service, and afterwards it is pleasant to share fellowship with cups of tea or coffee.

Speaking of sharing fellowship – The Table is valuable to our ministry. Our aim has always been to serve the community, and we pray that we shall continue to do so. It is still early days of course, but we serve an amazing God and are optimistic this will be a remarkable outreach.

Last Summer, Nick and Lucy – our vicar and his wife - departed. However, our work continues, mostly due to the remarkable help of Rob and Margaret Bianchi. We cannot thank them enough. Their foresight and wisdom is invaluable; it is thanks to their work that our congregation has not diminished during the past months. Infact it is showing signs of new people arriving and showing interest in our ministry.

So – we have serious issues to lift up in prayer.

- We need to give ongoing prayer support to Rob and Margaret, asking God to assist, guide them, and grant them the stamina they need as they seek ways to bring us closer to God.
- Pray for the congregation at St. George's, that we remain close and supportive of one another. We do have a wonderful fellowship, but we mustn't become complacent.
- Pray for the PCC, that they will have unity and wisdom.
- Pray for The Table, that it will prosper spiritually and financially. Prayer support is also needed for Nadine and the volunteers, without whom it cannot continue.

As ever, we are thankful for the love and support of our Christian family, and also to Eileen and Robert for their dedicated and very welcome assistance.

God bless all of you – Terry and Chris.

Vacancy Standing Committee

The committee was set up to oversee the life of the church during the vacancy, and its members are Terry, Chris, Doug, Eve, Rob and Margaret. Terry and Chris alternate chairing the meeting and Margaret takes minutes. We meet roughly fortnightly, with Lorraine and Nadine (as paid staff members) joining us once a month. We try to take on the burden of day to day running of the church, sorting out issues as they arise, but we always bring matters requiring the church's approval to the PCC. We are trying to encourage better communication, greater transparency and accountability within the church. Inevitably a good deal of the time has revolved around ongoing financial matters, but we also seek to give spiritual direction through developing teaching/preaching programmes. Anyone in the church can raise any matter with the standing committee as their first port of call and, as appropriate, the committee will refer this on to the PCC for a decision. We value greatly the support, encouragement and the trust that we receive from the church family, especially as this is a challenging time for us all.

Vacancy Standing Committee

Schools Ministry

St George's church currently has involvement, on a fairly minimal level, with just two schools in the parish. This year we welcomed Fatfield school into church for their two carol services which were well attended by parents. We conducted a session in church about baptism and Christian initiation with year 1 pupils as part of their curriculum studies. Harry Watts Academy continues to bring groups of students to the Monday Cuppa Cake and Company sessions and, before Christmas, as a thank you for our hospitality, their school choir entertained café customers with a selection of carols. They held their carol service in church for students and staff, and several students did readings. The Academy asked the church if we could be their emergency meeting point in the eventuality that the school has to be evacuated, a request which we were happy to accommodate.

Meat & Eat

Meet & Eat has continued to offer a freshly cooked 2 course meal, once a month, to both our church family and the wider community. It is now part of the cafe and continues to be well attended, the Christmas meal was particularly popular. We are thankful we still have enough volunteers and that the new kitchen has made food preparation and cooking easier. We pray the lunch club will continue to grow and that everyone, especially newcomers, will enjoy the company and fellowship of others.

Men's Hub Report

The men's hub has now been running over a year on the first Thursday of the month. The format is that we meet in the annexe from 6.30pm – 9pm with the opportunity for various games and activities, though most men seem content just to chat. Each night we have food provided by Nadine and one of the men shares some of their experiences of life whether it be about work, leisure or faith, which often lead to further discussion. As well as that we have had other presentations, discussion topics, as well as quizzes. We consistently have 25 – 30 men attending for at least part of the evening. The men come from St George's church, other churches and from our wider contacts and families. Whilst many of us are retired the youngest is in their twenties and a number of working age too. Any man over the age of 18 is very welcome.

Rob

Youth Film Club

Youth Film Club has been running in the church annexe since March 2025. Led by Ross and Ellen, the Club invites all youth (12+) to come together, once per month, to share a light meal, enjoy watching a film, and informally discuss the themes and messages of the film from a Christian perspective. Although attendance has been relatively low after a strong start, we have developed a core of consistent participants.

We pray that more will join us in the coming year, particularly as we integrate into the Washington Youth Hub. We also pray for the success of our new group, St. George's Film and Book Group, which launches in April 2026. Similar in structure and aims to the Youth Film Club, this new group will be open to the church family and anyone from the wider community with an interest in exploring films and books.

Ross and Ellen Kendall

The Craft and Chatter Group

The group began in November 2025 as a traditional "Knit and Natter Group". It was decided a change of name was a fresh idea as knitting is not for everyone. What didn't change was the purpose and ethos behind the idea.

We have a core membership of six committed Christians who have a simple desire - to share friendship, maybe learn a new skill or help someone to try a different craft - while being a witness of Jesus' love for us all.

As well as enjoying our own individual craft activities we are knitting blankets and hats for premature babies in local hospitals.

We meet every Tuesday from 11am to 1pm in the Garden Room. Everyone is very welcome.

Denise Young

World Giving

We give 10% of our freewill giving to support wider mission in the world, locally and internationally, supporting our three-year partners and to the charities put forward for one-year gifts. This year the PCC has agreed the following:

1 year cycle

Tearfund
Christians Against Poverty
Open Doors
Samaritans Purse

Each to received £330

3 year cycle

Nightingales
Book and Bread
IMC
Durham Lesotho
Rock of Ages
Gipsy Ministry

Each received £660.

We are so thankful that God has put us in a position here we could again support these organisations.

In Christ's Name, Doug Green – Treasurer

Cuppa, cake and company (CCC)

The 'coffee' mornings have been running for nearly 5 years (starting in April 2021) and continue to flourish. We attract around 30 to 50 people. New friendships have evolved over the years which extends the level of support and care of one another. We are still attracting new people even though some people aren't as regular as they used to be. The new annex and café mean more people are aware of CCC. Together with our link to St. George's nursing home we have regular visits from the carers and residents plus some of the staff and pupils at Harry Watts Academy in Harraton. Pastries, cakes and scones are either homemade or donated from surplus stock from businesses. Monetary donations help towards the purchase of tea, coffee etc and the running costs, with the main focus on fellowship and community.

As the annex and café are now 'fully' operational, 2025 has brought new challenges for the CCC teams. As we have now 'moved' into the Community room on a Monday and Friday morning, there is still the need to set up and dismantle tables (from the storage room), chairs (to reorganise) and the coffee trolley to set up (from the coffee point) as the community room is hired out for various events during the week. On the plus side 'we' now have use of dishwashing facilities and are helped by the café volunteers when they aren't busy.

All of the above has aided our outreach and ministry in the community and beyond.

We give thanks for:

- The volunteers who give their time using their gifts on a Monday and Friday
- The people from the community who come to CCC
- The new café and manager, opening more opportunities for fellowship and pastoral work within the parish

We pray for:

- Continued faith and strength for ALL volunteers, that they know how much they are appreciated.
- A huge need for more volunteers to help spread the work load and provide cover for holiday periods.
- Nadine our café manager who started in March 2025 and works alongside all volunteers (in the Table café and a variety of other groups both from church and annex room bookings).

Gail Watson and the CCC Teams

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and we have the relevant policies in place, which are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

We give thanks for:

- i No issues regarding Safeguarding
- i Concerns registers, in both the Church and the Table
- i St George's being a safe place for those that seek peace.
- i The continued support of Leslie Stevens as deputy designated safeguarding officer.
- i PCC members and other volunteers who have undertaken safeguarding training and accreditation.
- i Access to the Safeguarding hub provided by the Diocese.

We pray for:

- i The Diocesan Safeguarding team – who continue to support us.
- i Continues vigilance by the St George's community in being aware of safeguarding issues.

Doug Green

Toddlers

The Church Toddler Group continues to run in the main church with the team setting up on a Monday afternoon ready for Tuesday morning to ensure the engagement and safety of all who we welcome into church.

We are a team of five. Ruth Forster joined our team in September when her grandson started nursery (and two trusty gentlemen) but whenever we need extra help the parents/grandparents are always ready to help.

The group is well attended and the children, parents and grandparents who come appreciate all that we do. We currently have 20+ children on our list but are always ready to welcome others.

We offer the children time to play and learn alongside each other, share a story and craft as well as juice and a biscuit. The children really enjoy both our Christmas party and end of year party. When the children finally leave us, each child receives a Bible which we hope will draw them back to Church one day and we can help them grow in faith.

We give thanks for:

- Our volunteers who give up their time so readily to serve the community.
- The opportunities this ministry gives us to bring people/children to church.
- The blessings we receive in serving God in this way.

We pray for:

- God Bless St George's Church Family who serves this community so well.**

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

The children of our church are a blessing, and they will one day be at the centre of our church congregation. They already both challenge and cause Kathryn and I to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and how we can keep our hearts and eyes focused on him – think what they can do for you! They are an integral part of the Church family and as young as they are they were very keen to have their say in what our new Vicar should ‘look like’ and do.



- We pray for:**

- Lynn Green**

Electoral Roll

This is the first year following the renewal of the Church Electoral Roll of the "Parish for St Georges Church Fatfield".

In 2025 we had 106 people at the time of the APCM and one person added soon after this date, making it 107 people on the Electoral Roll.

There has now been a further 4 people added to the Electoral Roll and 2 people have been removed as they have left the area.

As of the 29th March 2026 there are 109 people on the Electoral Roll.

Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick

Our Pastoral Team: continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday every other month, meeting 6 times a year. We use our meetings to feedback how our support is going.

We continue to look for ways to support our church family and community, through our church and café, finding opportunities to work with Nadine.

We have introduced Welcome Cards for anyone who is new to our church so they can request ways in which they would like to get involved.

We have introduced Support Group Cards; this groups people together throughout the church helping to support one another.

We continue to provide Home Communion to those who are unable to get to church.

We continue to have links with: -

- Age-UK.
- St Georges Care Home, where Pat strives to provide a service once a month at the home. Welcoming the residents to our 10pm service, our Monday and Friday Cuppa, Cake & Company mornings and any special services we hold.

We continue to organise day bus trips, using Lee's Coaches of Durham.

Building Group

2025 was the year of our Quinquennial Review and as the name suggests it occurs every 5 years. The Diocese appoints an Architect who visits our church building and carries out a thorough examination of the building and all its working parts. They then produce a document detailing which items require attention over the next 5 years. Some will be major, others will be minor but we are duty bound to look at all the points raised and if possible effect the repairs.

One major issue was the failure of several of our electrical circuits and this has already been addressed. Another one was a fault on the main boiler and that too has been addressed.

The year saw the group getting to grips with the vagaries of the new annexe. This involved learning about the heating, ventilation and electrics.

All manner of maintenance issues were taken care of during the year and we were involved in supervising a totally new electrical supply which allows us to be on a more advantageous tariff with our supplier

There were 2 "Working Days" during the year, one in May and the other in November. A good attendance allowed us to completely clean the main church and its contents.

The group members responsible for the upkeep of the graveyard and surrounding areas deserve special mention. Peter, Roger, Nigel, Brian, Norman and Reece do an amazing job and this part of our church is kept in pristine condition.

We give thanks for:

The volunteers and their skills who have completed many tasks throughout the year.

We pray for:

The health of the group members who are all over 70

More volunteers to join us, particularly younger ones, as our building is now about twice its size and therefore twice the problems

Cleaning Team

The cleaning team meets after coffee morning on Fridays at approximately 11.30am and consists of Avril, Betty, Sharon and Len.

We concentrate on getting the Sunday worshipping area of the church clean and tidy for the services and this involves cleaning the Disabled Toilet, the chairs, all the brasswork and vacuuming the carpet.

We also clean the lobby area leading to the Admin Office and the area which previously held the servery. We keep the upstairs toilets and staircase clean as the first floor kitchen is used on a regular basis.

If anyone feels that they have time and would like to assist us in our chores it would be greatly appreciated.

We give thanks for:

We are thankful to God that we are able and willing to serve Him

We pray for:

We pray that more people come forward to help us in our labours

Parish Administrator's Report

In July 2025 our vicar Nick left for his new parish, I am so grateful I got to work with him closely for the last 6 years.

We now have a vacancy committee group who are looking after our church until a new vicar arrives and I attend the meetings once a month.

The office is now busier than ever and has been challenging, but on the other hand so rewarding.

I am on the pastoral team and attend the meetings and there have been so many times when pastoral care has been needed it is a huge part of my role.

I am so thankful to God for bringing me to St George's.

I am thankful for the support from Rob, Margaret, Terry, Chris, and Doug.

I am also thankful for Nadine our café manager who has been a blessing.

I pray that God will send us the right person to lead St George's.

I pray that God will give us the courage and wisdom to talk to those who come through our doors when the opportunity arises, about our faith and what Jesus has done in our lives.

Youth Group

Ian and Keira took over the running of the youth group in September 2025, and have been meeting weekly with the young people to explore questions of life and faith. Each week we meet together, play some games, study the Bible in creative ways, and share a meal together (prepared by Jo or Keira). In the first term we studied Psalms, and how these songs reflect people bringing their different emotions and experiences to God. In January we started a new series, working our way through John's gospel, and looking at the life and ministry of Jesus. Numbers vary week to week, but we have a core group of 5 young people meeting regularly to learn about following Jesus for themselves.

In March, a group of young people helped to lead the morning service and we hope this will become a regular part of the church's worship.

We are very thankful for:

- A great group of young people, who are growing in faith and confidence
- Good food to share together, and for Jo and Keira preparing it
- Space to meet and explore faith together.
- Support and encouragement from the wider church

Pray for:

- Young people facing exams and decisions about their future
- Young people continuing to be excited about Jesus, and growing in their faith
- Ways to develop and grow our work with young people

Washington Community Food Project

We are profoundly grateful for another year of generous support from the congregation of St George's Church. Your kindness is humbling. Whether you gave money, food, or toiletries, you helped us to fill our shelves, provide nutritious meals as well as hope and dignity to your neighbours.

With your help, in 2025 the WCFP distributed over 1600 food parcels to almost 3600 local people in need, free lunches for children during every school holiday and healthy snacks at breakfast/after-school clubs. In addition, our Easter hampers and Christmas-give-away enabled struggling families to enjoy these special times of year with some of the luxuries many of us take for granted.

Like all food banks at the present time, we are having to manage high demand despite facing increased costs and reduced grants. Donations from local people and groups has NEVER been more vital, or more appreciated.

Every day food banks see how people can be quickly tipped into crisis by an unexpected cost or financial shock. Sadly, food insecurity has become a much wider issue affecting all levels of society. A significant portion of those now referred to the food bank are in work and almost a third of our referrals in 2025 cited the rising cost of living as the main reason they needed our help.

Whilst we celebrate the introduction of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (set to replace the Household Support Fund from April 2026) we recognise there is still more work to do and that emergency food support will continue to be a lifeline to many during these uncertain times.

The Washington Community Food Project will keep its doors open as long as we are needed and as long as we have such incredible supporters as yourselves.

On behalf of the entire WCFP family- and those we serve- THANK YOU!

Nicola Jobson
WCFP Chair

Ladies Group Report

The Ladies Group was reformed at the end of last year, after a few absent years since Covid. It is a Bi-monthly event.

Our first event was the Christmas meal held at Fiumes Restaurant in December attended by 17 of which there were five non Congregation Ladies. It was a lovely evening of fellowship.

Our second event in February was a Bowling night out which proved to be a resounding success. Much fun and laughter at our efforts. Again, 17 attended but with some different Ladies included.

Our event in April was intended to be film night but having to change to a 'catch up' evening instead, as it includes talking, should not deter our Ladies at all.

Forthcoming events include a summer BBQ, a Craft evening and a 'Quiet day' away at a retreat.

The main reason for these Ladies events is to have informal fellowship, and to encourage our Church Ladies to bring friends and family. We are thankful that the

first two events have been an opportunity to mix and chat to fellow church members especially those who are in different congregations and to meet new people. We're hoping and praying that, moving forward, we can attract more interested ladies, especially outreaching to those outside our Congregations.

Café Manager Report

I have been managing 'The Table' since March 2025, during this time I have seen some fantastic growth within our volunteer team. We stand as a team of 34 volunteers registered with 23 of these volunteering at least once a week. There are currently a further 3 volunteers going through the induction process. It has been a privilege to see some of our volunteers grow in both skills and confidence, especially seeing one of our young volunteers gain employment. The time and dedication given by each and every one is greatly appreciated and we would not be able to serve the local community in the way we do without their hard work and tireless energy.

The café would also not be able to run without the amazing support of our regular customers, our regulars make up a little more than half of our customer base. Some of these are connected with the wider church or annexe activities but there are a lot who are solely linked with the café. It has been wonderful to get to know so many people from the local community we would not connect with otherwise. The café has ran the last two children's craft days and some craft activities for the young people over the summer. These have been well attended and enjoyed by both those attending with their young people and the volunteers themselves. In this next year we hope to increase in the activities we offer to support the local community and in ministry.

I give thanks for:

- The wonderful welcome I received to the Church and all the continuing support for myself and the café from volunteers, parishioners and regular customers.
- All the opportunities God has given us to reach and serve the local community. Especially to those who may never have entered a Church otherwise.

I pray for:

- All our faithful volunteers, for the sustained energy in serving and for their personal growth and development.
- New opportunities to serve the local community, for God to show us the ways in which He wants us to reach His people and give us the skills and wisdom to do this in an accessible and loving way.

Accounts

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 8
Independent Examiner's Report	9
Statement of Financial Activities	10
Balance Sheet	11
Statement of Cash Flows	12
Notes to the Financial Statements	13 - 29

The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements:

Appendix I	30 - 50
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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees

Rev Nick Barr- Hamilton, Chair
 Mrs Christine Hope, Warden
 Mr Terry Wyatt, Warden (appointed 19 May 2024)
 Mr Maurice Taylor, Reader
 Mrs Patricia Hampton Matthews, Reader
 Mrs Eve Winstanley, APA
 Mr Douglas Green, Treasurer
 Mr George Len Adams, Elected member
 Mrs Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Deanery Synod Representative
 Mr Clive Bowman, Elected member (appointed 19 May 2024)
 Ms Tarahneh Etemadi, Elected member (resigned 19 May 2024)
 Mrs Eileen Fletcher, Elected member (appointed 19 May 2024)
 Mrs Ruth Forster, Elected member (appointed 19 May 2024)
 Mr Ross Kendall, Elected member
 Mrs Andrea Pritchard, Elected member
 Mrs Anna Snell, Elected member
 Mrs Leslie Stevens, Elected member
 Mrs Gail Watson, Elected member
 Mr Peter Watson, Elected member (resigned 19 May 2024)

Charity registered number

1190509

Principal office

Vigo Lane
 Harraton
 Washington
 Tyne & Wear
 NE38 9AH

Secretary

Mrs Ruth Forster

Accountants

Kinnair Associates Limited
 Chartered Accountants
 Aston House
 Redburn Road
 Newcastle upon Tyne
 NE5 1NB

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited
 25 Kings Hill Avenue
 Kings Hill
 West Malling
 Kent
 ME19 4JQ

The Co-operative Bank plc
 P.O. Box 250
 Skelmersdale
 WN8 6WT

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton, promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in His church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

● Policies and objectives

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health and Safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support the incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. To this end there are both study and home groups;
- provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) community drop in coffee mornings, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth group, a warm space initiative and a number of other community groups; and
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and have facilities fit for use in the 21st Century. During the year work to construct a new community annexe onto the church building was completed (bar snagging and some minor works). It was opened formally in December, but began serving the community in October. This will better enable us to achieve the objectives of the charity and help us become more sustainable.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

● Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. Over 50 people are involved in volunteering at St George's. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them all by name, but you work in service of Christ and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Objectives and activities (continued)

● Safeguarding

Mr Doug Green served as the elected Safeguarding Officer through 2024 with Mrs Leslie Stevens serving as deputy.

The PCC of St George's have adopted and pay due regard to safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the internal notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

Achievements and performance

● Main achievements of the Charity

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports the local community with. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community, including a cream tea, community meals, a summer 'Holiday Hunger' week and Easter & Christmas craft cafes.

All are welcome to our regular services. Weekly we have three services to which on average over 100 people attend, including over 10 young people. There is a monthly 8am communion service. There are 104 parishioners on the electoral roll. We welcome visitors on most Sundays of the year and to all of our activities.

In addition to our regular services and groups, we conduct baptisms and occasional weddings, as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service.

Our Easter and Christmas services returned to a normal pattern in 2024, along with some new activities thanks to the new annexe and terrace, including an outdoor 'Carols on the Terrace' event where we formally opened the new annexe. The church continued to hold many funerals and burials in 2024 and the churchyard is now all but full.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision.

In October our community café was launched. This community café has been named 'The Table'. A café manager has been employed, but the café is volunteer run.

Vision: 'The Table' will bless people in Jesus' name by providing a welcoming, inclusive community space that serves God through its Christian ethos.

Mission: We are a community café, providing a warm welcome and safe space for all, serving God's food, love & prayer at 'The Table'. We aim to show love & grace to everyone and open our doors to the local community and its needs.

It aims to provide sustainable, healthy and affordable food to people in the local community and support the vision for the Annexe as a whole to become a 'hub' for the community.

Through the autumn and winter, the church continued to offer a 'warm space', but with the community café open in October, this ran six days a week. In the first three months of operation we welcomed almost 3,000 visitors, providing a warm place to meet and socialise, along with affordable, high quality drinks and food. We are grateful for support from Sunderland City council and The Community Foundation to support this initiative.

During the year, funding was also received to install a photovoltaic/battery system to cut our carbon footprint as well as reduce costs of the kitchen.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Achievements and performance (continued)

Financial review

- **Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

- **Reserves policy**

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover three months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th 2018.

For year end 2024 there remained a significant restricted fund for the Annexe Project that will be spent in 2025 on the final bills for the new annexe building project and the retention due in 2026.

- **Risk management**

The Trustees are responsible for risk management within the church.

A general risk assessment of the building is in place for all users. Each group that operates within the church is expected to have considered risk in how they operate and risk assessments are expected where significant risks are identified.

Given its scale and cost, a substantial Risk Management document for the Community Annexe Project was produced with support from the professional team and risk is regularly discussed at Trustee meetings. This has been used through the project.

Our regular ongoing operations are predominantly funded through regular local giving by church members with no one individual being substantial enough to present a significant risk to church finances. Whilst highly unlikely, if income were to fall dramatically, there is significant flexibility in the parish share system to ensure no short term existential risk to the viability of the church exists. No external funder represents more than 10% of ongoing costs.

Safeguarding risk is managed through paying due regard to the guidance from the Church of England and ensuring all relevant volunteers are safeguarding trained and DBS checked.

Risk assessments of activities are carried out, the church ensures its insurance is fit for purpose and a Health and Safety policy is in place and reviewed annually. External users are expected to follow our policies or have their own suitable policies in place for risk and safeguarding.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

● Financial review for the year

The Financial review produced by our Treasurer and independently examined is available later in this document. The PCC and incumbent are incredibly grateful to all who give financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £87,344 of which £51,867 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £9,519 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £31,875 were also received and are detailed in the financial statements.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased by 10% and it was good to see the use of Gift Aid continuing.

Total income, including tax recovered but excluding the Annexe funds, went up by 6% compared with last year.

We were grateful for substantial grants of £316,820 towards our Annexe Project and thank God for his faithfulness in providing sufficient funding for the bulk of the project – after Value Engineering – to go ahead. The details of these grants can be found in the financial statements.

£78,996 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. George's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that decreased by 17.5% in the year and largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy.

The sum that the churches in the deanery have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based on size of church, income and deprivation index.

The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £8,348 on unrestricted funds.

Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £41,485 of which £15,000 has been set aside to meet final costs of the community annexe project and is carried forward as a designated fund.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

● Constitution

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

● Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and authorised pastoral assistants (APAs), any members of CofE Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) and those co-opted by the PCC.

● Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The full PCC (Trustees) meets nine times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings Group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting.

The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, Whistle Blowing, Anti-Fraud, Domestic Abuse, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

● Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

● Administration

St George's Church is found at Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington NE38 9AH. It is an Anglican Church of England church within the diocese of Durham. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

PCC members who have served from the APCM 2024 (19th May 2024) are listed on page 1 of the financial statements.

The day to day management of church activities is delegated to the Incumbent and the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook, who we thank for her diligent and effective work in keeping the organisation of everything running smoothly.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Plans for future periods

Our separate vision document contains plans for where we feel God calling us, but 2025 will see us continue to take the church forward in a very changed world. Heating costs remain high, but with the new Community Annexe completed, much of our work will take place in a modern well insulated and efficient building. Worship will continue in our Victorian church building.

2025 will see a continuing step chain in how we achieve our aims and purpose. The launch of a community café has opened many new opportunities and employing a café manager will further grow the opportunities to work with partners in supporting our community, where there are many isolated, lonely and vulnerable people. These changes bring a level of uncertainty as further funding will be needed, but we will work with others, including the VCS (Voluntary Community Sector) and the social enterprise support team of the BIC (Business and Innovation Centre) Sunderland to help deliver the business plan. At time of writing some funding is in place for 2025 for the café manager and café reserves/income should cover the rest if no further grants are awarded. The plan is that it will become self sufficient over time.

While the annexe construction project was all encompassing for most of 2024 and the final snagging is still creating a lot of work, we must also keep focussed on the primary objectives of the church that the new annexe is enabling. We will continue to work with partners, including Washington Community Food Project and Active Families North-East to serve and support people in our community.

The Pastoral team has grown and plans to develop its mission and ministry further in 2025. There are also plans to launch a monthly youth club and a men's hub in the new annexe.

Independent examination

Owing to the substantial capital grants received for the annexe building project our income has risen above the threshold where we can report on a receipts and payments basis. These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and the PCC appointed Kinnair Associates Limited as our Independent Examiner for 2023 and 2024.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 6 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Rev. Nick Barr-Hamilton

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St George's Church Fatfield ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

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

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

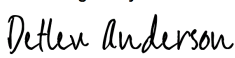
This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

DocuSigned by:

Dated: 9 May 2025

Detlev Anderson


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FCA

Kinnair Associates Limited

Chartered Accountants
Aston House
Redburn Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1NB

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	61,386	415,839	477,225	605,132
Other trading activities	4	16,302	-	16,302	6,926
Investments	5	-	5,645	5,645	6,846
Other church activities	6	9,656	-	9,656	8,485
Total income		87,344	421,484	508,828	627,389
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	7	4,658	16,091	20,749	-
Charitable activities		74,338	26,648	100,986	88,416
Total expenditure		78,996	42,739	121,735	88,416
Net income before net gains on investments		8,348	378,745	387,093	538,973
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	1,093
Net movement in funds		8,348	378,745	387,093	540,066
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		33,137	772,732	805,869	265,803
Net movement in funds		8,348	378,745	387,093	540,066
Total funds carried forward		41,485	1,151,477	1,192,962	805,869

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 13 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,171,933	333,961
		<u>1,171,933</u>	<u>333,961</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	14,780	3,900
Cash at bank and in hand		125,212	542,466
		<u>139,992</u>	<u>546,366</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(92,675)	(74,458)
Net current assets		<u>47,317</u>	<u>471,908</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>1,219,250</u>	<u>805,869</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(26,288)	-
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>1,192,962</u>	<u>805,869</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>1,192,962</u></u>	<u><u>805,869</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	16	1,151,477	772,732
Unrestricted funds	16	41,485	33,137
Total funds		<u><u>1,192,962</u></u>	<u><u>805,869</u></u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 06 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Rev Nick Barr- Hamilton

The notes on pages 13 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	420,651	597,702
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	5,645	6,070
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(843,550)	(312,442)
Purchase of investments	-	(533)
Net cash inflow in respect of endowment capital	-	33,537
Net cash used in investing activities	(837,905)	(273,368)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(417,254)	324,334
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	542,466	218,132
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	125,212	542,466

The notes on pages 13 to 29 form part of these financial statements

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. General information

St George's Church Fatfield is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number 1190509). The registered office is St George's Church, Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 9AH.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

St George's Church Fatfield meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period one year from the date of authorisation of issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

2. Accounting policies (continued)**2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised in the financial statements when it is received, or on an accruals basis where it can be assured with reasonable certainty and is receivable by the balance sheet date. Income tax recoverable on voluntary donations is recognised in the financial statements when it is receivable from HM Revenue and Customs.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

All other incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities on a cash received basis or on an accruals basis where they are assured with reasonable certainty and receivable by the balance sheet date.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Direct costs are those costs that are capable of being allocated directly to a charitable activity.

Support costs are those costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity, such as the administration staff roles. The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice requires that support costs are separately identified and then allocated between the Charity's activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. In practice, all support costs are allocated against ministry activities.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2%
Plant and machinery	- 4% to 10%

2.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.9 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.10 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.12 Fund accounting

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations			
Planned Giving	10,169	-	10,169
Collections at services	2,446	-	2,446
Other voluntary income	39,252	31,875	71,127
Gift Aid recovered	9,519	5,010	14,529
Grants			
Sunderland City Council	-	127,902	127,902
Community Lottery Fund	-	87,500	87,500
Other grants	-	34,642	34,642
Other Annexe grants	-	128,910	128,910
Subtotal detailed disclosure	61,386	415,839	477,225

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

3. Income from donations and legacies (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Total 2024	61,386	415,839	477,225
	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations			
Planned giving	9,285	11,050	20,335
Collections at services	2,824	-	2,824
Other voluntary income	41,517	97,700	139,217
Gift Aid recovered	10,825	5,431	16,256
Grants			
Sunderland City Council	-	10,000	10,000
Community Lottery Fund	-	55,000	55,000
The Community Ownership Fund	-	250,000	250,000
Other Annexe grants	-	111,500	111,500
Subtotal detailed disclosure	64,451	540,681	605,132
Total 2023	64,451	540,681	605,132

4. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Church and community groups	6,422	6,422
Other income	1,247	1,247
	7,669	7,669

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. Income from other trading activities (continued)

Income from fundraising events (continued)

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Church and community groups	6,841	6,841
Other income	85	85
	<u>6,926</u>	<u>6,926</u>

Income from non charitable trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
The Table community café	<u>8,633</u>	<u>8,633</u>	-

5. Investment income

	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Investment income	<u>5,645</u>	<u>5,645</u>

	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Endowment funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Investment income	<u>6,313</u>	<u>533</u>	<u>6,846</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

6. Other incoming resources

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Other church activities	9,656	9,656
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Other church activities	8,485	8,485

7. Expenditure on raising funds

Fundraising trading expenses

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Cafe food purchases	3,667	-	3,667	-
Cafe other direct expenses	319	-	319	-
Kitchen and café equipment	133	-	133	-
Cafe card expenses	62	-	62	-
Cafe cleaning	54	-	54	-
Cafe other general expenses	328	-	328	-
Fundraising trading expenses - wages and salaries	95	16,091	16,186	-
	4,658	16,091	20,749	-

The community cafe (The Table at St Georges) raises funds to support the activities of St George's Church. However, the contribution The Table makes is much more than that, providing a meeting place for mission and community outreach work.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Ministry	9,633	24,014	33,647
Building and Grounds	21,595	-	21,595
Community and Mission	9,266	-	9,266
Diocesan and similar costs	36,478	-	36,478
Total 2024	76,972	24,014	100,986

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Ministry	9,844	14,337	24,181
Building and Grounds	13,082	-	13,082
Community and Mission	9,062	-	9,062
Diocesan and similar costs	42,091	-	42,091
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>74,079</i>	<i>14,337</i>	<i>88,416</i>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Ministry 2024 £	Building and Grounds 2024 £	Community and Mission 2024 £	Diocesan 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Parish share	-	-	-	33,000	33,000
Service and other ministry costs	1,614	-	-	-	1,614
Clergy expenses	375	-	-	-	375
Insurance	5,772	-	-	-	5,772
Heat, light and water	-	12,774	-	-	12,774
Building and grounds maintenance	-	2,097	-	-	2,097
World giving	-	-	7,091	-	7,091
Donations paid on	-	-	638	-	638
Community groups	-	-	1,537	-	1,537
Annexe project	-	6,443	-	-	6,443
Other costs	1,872	281	-	3,478	5,631
Total 2024	9,633	21,595	9,266	36,478	76,972
	Ministry 2023 £	Building and Grounds 2023 £	Community and Mission 2023 £	Diocesan 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Parish share	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Service and other ministry costs	2,417	-	-	-	2,417
Clergy expenses	353	-	-	-	353
Insurance	6,280	-	-	-	6,280
Heat, light and water	-	8,872	-	-	8,872
Building and grounds maintenance	-	3,937	-	-	3,937
World giving	-	-	5,539	-	5,539
Donations paid on	-	-	334	-	334
Community groups	-	-	3,189	-	3,189
Other costs	794	273	-	2,091	3,158
Total 2023	9,844	13,082	9,062	42,091	74,079

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Ministry 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	12,622	12,622
Education and training	608	608
Telephone, website and internet	769	769
Printing, postage and stationery	669	669
Depreciation	5,578	5,578
Other costs	1,408	1,408
Independent examination	2,360	2,360
Total 2024	<u>24,014</u>	<u>24,014</u>

	<i>Ministry 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Staff costs	10,951	10,951
Education and training	229	229
Telephone, website and internet	733	733
Printing, postage and stationery	459	459
Other costs	365	365
Independent examination	1,600	1,600
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>14,337</u>	<u>14,337</u>

9. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	<u>1,712</u>	<u>1,600</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

10. Staff costs

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Wages and salaries	28,808	<i>10,951</i>
	<u>28,808</u>	<u><i>10,951</i></u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Administration	1	<i>1</i>
Community café manager and missional lead	1	<i>-</i>
	<u>2</u>	<u><i>1</i></u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The PCC employees an administrator to assist with the administration of church activities. A cafe manager was also employed during the year, whose role includes missional lead and other management. There were no employee benefits paid to key management personnel in the current or previous years.

11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, one or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Charity. Employment was short term and temporary, filling in between a change of permanent staff. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

	2024	<i>2023</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Mrs Lucy Barr-Hamilton Remuneration	2,140	<i>-</i>

In the normal course of the Charity's activities some of the Trustees, while acting as volunteers, incur expenditure on behalf of the Charity for which they are reimbursed.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other Trustees, persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

The Trustees, as members of the church, may make voluntary contributions to support church activities. No individual Trustee's contribution was material during the current or previous year.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Assets under construction £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 January 2024	-	-	333,961	333,961
Additions	111,307	41,775	690,468	843,550
Transfers between classes	1,024,429	-	(1,024,429)	-
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,135,736</u>	<u>41,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,177,511</u>
Depreciation				
Charge for the year	5,122	456	-	5,578
At 31 December 2024	<u>5,122</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,578</u>
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,130,614</u>	<u>41,319</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,171,933</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>333,961</u>	<u>333,961</u>

During the year the church annexe, under construction at 31 December 2023, was brought into use.

13. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	14,780	3,900
	<u>14,780</u>	<u>3,900</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Creditors	59,614	58,217
Other taxation and social security	1,839	150
Accruals and deferred income	31,222	16,091
	<u>92,675</u>	<u>74,458</u>

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>26,288</u>	<u>-</u>

16. Statement of funds**Statement of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
Designated funds				
Designated Fund	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,000</u>
General funds				
General Fund	<u>18,137</u>	<u>87,344</u>	<u>(78,996)</u>	<u>26,485</u>
Restricted funds				
Annexe Fund	764,110	363,468	(14,722)	1,112,856
Warm Spaces	8,622	-	(8,622)	-
Solar PV System Fund	-	38,943	(322)	38,621
Christmas 2024 Project	-	2,982	(2,982)	-
The Table Fund	-	16,091	(16,091)	-
	<u>772,732</u>	<u>421,484</u>	<u>(42,739)</u>	<u>1,151,477</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. Statement of funds (continued)

Total of funds	805,869	508,828	(121,735)	1,192,962
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Statement of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Fund	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
General funds						
General Fund	16,989	79,862	(78,714)	-	-	18,137
Total Unrestricted funds	31,989	79,862	(78,714)	-	-	33,137
Endowment funds						
Fatfield	31,911	533	-	(33,537)	1,093	-
Restricted funds						
Annexe Fund	194,954	536,889	(1,270)	33,537	-	764,110
Warm Spaces	6,949	10,105	(8,432)	-	-	8,622
	201,903	546,994	(9,702)	33,537	-	772,732
Total of funds	265,803	627,389	(88,416)	-	1,093	805,869

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

16. Statement of funds (continued)

The designated fund was allocated at the discretion of the Trustees to set aside funds for any shortfall in funding the new building.

The endowment fund was the Fatfield 7/1 Church Hall Trust Fund held in investment and deposit funds by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee. The account was closed during 2023 and monies transferred to the PCC for the annexe building project.

The restricted funds comprise the following:

Annexe Fund - for the building of a church annexe for use by the community and for church activities.

Warm Spaces - donations and grants received for the provision of warm spaces in the winter for the benefit of the community.

Solar PV System Fund - grants received for the purchase and installation of a solar PV system.

Christmas 2024 Project - grants and donations received for church and community activities in December 2024.

The Table Fund - grant received from Sunderland City council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for revenue costs relating to the community cafe operating in the Annexe.

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,171,933	1,171,933
Current assets	49,141	90,851	139,992
Creditors due within one year	(7,656)	(85,019)	(92,675)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	(26,288)	(26,288)
Total	41,485	1,151,477	1,192,962

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

17. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	333,961	333,961
Current assets	39,295	507,071	546,366
Creditors due within one year	(6,158)	(68,300)	(74,458)
Total	<u>33,137</u>	<u>772,732</u>	<u>805,869</u>

18. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	387,093	540,066
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,578	-
(Gains) losses on investments	-	(1,093)
Dividends and interest received	(5,645)	(6,070)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(10,880)	(2,605)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	44,505	67,404
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>420,651</u>	<u>597,702</u>

19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	125,212	542,466
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>125,212</u>	<u>542,466</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

20. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	542,466	(417,254)	125,212
	<u>542,466</u>	<u>(417,254)</u>	<u>125,212</u>

21. Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	<u>25,464</u>	<u>679,105</u>

The capital commitments contracted but not provided for are for the church annexe, brought into use during the year, with some contract costs still due at the year end.

At the year end, to help with building costs of the annexe, grants have been awarded but not yet received of £19,213.

Annexe to the Report and Accounts of St George's Church Fatfield

Index

Page number

31	AGENDA
32	Vicar's Report
34	Schools' Ministry
35	Youth Group
35	World Giving
36	Administrator's Report
37	Electoral Roll
38	Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick
38	Mothers' Union
39	Church Wardens' Report 2024-2025
40	Building Group
41	Washington Community Food Project
41	Meet & Eat
42	Coffee, Cake & Company
43	Safeguarding Report
43	Cleaning Team
44	Toddlers' Report
45	Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service
47	Minutes Of The APCM Meeting

Parishioner Meeting & APCM

Sunday 18TH MAY 2025

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting on Sunday 19th May 2024
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on Sunday 19th May 2024
4. Matters arising
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)

Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)

Safeguarding

Deanery Synod report

Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.

7. Elections

PCC (4 persons for 3 years)

8. Appointment of External Examiner
9. Chairman's report.
10. Any other business

Vicar's report – Rev Nick Barr-Hamilton

2024 was another year of geopolitical upheaval, conflict and nationalism, culminating in the election of Donald Trump in the US. Russia continued to wage war against Ukraine, Iran, Israel, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Hamas all continue to be engaged in conflict in the Middle East, much of central and Western Africa has insurgencies and Sudan's conflict is ongoing. Climate Change, politics and a shift in global power are all creating concerns.

The world is unstable, but as a Christian church we look to one who brings certainty. We also have to recognise that in the chaos, God is at work. We may not be able to see it, but what if the Lord is using this chaos to rebuke our squandering of our Christian heritage in the West? What if it is a rebuke to the 'comfort' we have taken for granted the past 60 years. It is certainly true that there is a renewed interest in the Christian faith, especially from young people who do not carry the baggage of the historic church

Church began the year as a muddy building site after work began on the new annexe in September 2023. Thanks to additional funding, the whole project was brought to fruition and the bulk of the construction work was completed in June 2024, but due to a late order for the new power supply, we only were able to begin using it at the end of September and even by year end the cladding had still not been completed after many mistakes were made by the subcontractor. However, that was mainly cosmetic and in just 3 months it had already begun to transform our mission and ministry as well as make us more eco friendly. In November 2024 a substantial PV solar array and battery system was installed that should cut our energy costs and help our shift to net zero in 2025.

Church activities and worship continued to flourish. I give thanks to God for everyone who serves and makes St George's such a Christ focussed, mission filled place. There is too much to mention here, but in this booklet everyone's hard work and generosity is evident and our new annexe has opened so many doors.

The long planned community café, named 'The Table' opened its doors in November and in just 8 weeks we saw nearly 2000 visitors, including nearly 400 at an Eco Day put on by Climate Action Sunderland. Through 2025 the community café should continue to draw in people of all ages and walks of life, but the positive comments about quality of space and food makes us confident that it was not only a good idea given the needs of this community, it has come from the Lord and is being blessed by Him.

For 2025 we must continue to walk by faith. I remain convinced that the reason the Lord has answered our prayers is that every step of the way we have stepped out in faith and taken risks for the Lord. He has shown himself faithful and always provided, even when at the times when serious cost overruns meant we did not know where all the money would come from. It has taken its toll on me personally as it has not been without some serious issues. Thankfully all but one are now resolved and everything is working well. Praise be to God for his goodness and sustaining power.

Our schools work thrived, contacts with Harry Watts Academy in Harraton and Lambton School developed, our youth work flourished and our community outreach took off. We continued our relationships with the NHS liaison and SHARP, on top of WCFP, (food bank) and Active Families running a group each week. We continue to be a part of the local VCS and Sunderland Connect network (connecting churches across the city together).

It has been an incredible year, but not without sadness. We have hosted over 16 funerals and we have lost a number of longstanding members of our church family. Mary, Ken, Margaret and Maureen are all greatly missed by us all, but we know they are with the Lord in eternity.

In early 2025 it was announced that I (Nick) had been appointed as the new Rector of St Pancras Chichester. There are many reasons why it felt like the Lord's time to move on, but the driving factor was without doubt Lucy's need to be closer to her aging parents as her mum comes to the end of her life.

I want to finish by thanking God for all the volunteers, especially our church wardens Chris and Terry and treasurer Doug, the PCC, Eve Winstanley and Rob and Margaret Bianchi, who have worked so hard to enable so much to take place this year past. Thank you for your support, advice and service and I pray you are blessed as you continue. I know you will have a lot to do as Lucy and I move on later in the year.

Give thanks for:

- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of our ministries, mission and people.
- Our volunteers and teams who do so much to serve others and sacrifice time, effort and money to support Christ's church and his ministry here.
- That the Community Annexe and new entrance that came into use in late 2024 as well as the funding for the PV solar system.
- Finances and people's generosity
- Many answered prayers through the year, including the successful launch and growth of 'The Table', our new community café.
- God's sustaining strength through a very difficult year.

Pray for:

- Our mission and evangelism through the year.
- That 'The Table' would flourish under Nadine's leadership and become an incredible missional tool. More volunteers. Development of its offer.

- A good PCC to work together to sustain and grow the church through the interregnum.
- Unity and vision from God as Rob and Margaret help lead the church.
- Ongoing church growth in number and in depth of faith.
- Church finances to remain solid and further grants/funding to help complete the vision for the churchyard and grounds, including a community garden and moving the headstones to create a new level outdoor space for activities.
- Nick, Lucy, Elisheba and Raph to thrive as they move on and healing after a difficult few years.
- That all of us would continue to fix our eyes on Jesus and live for Him.

Schools' Ministry

During 2024, School assemblies were taken in two local primary schools and both schools brought pupils to the church for lessons on Baptisms, Weddings, Easter and the Christian Church. Christmas services were held for Fatfield Academy and Biddick Academy. We continued our work with the Harry Watts Academy that works with young people with ASD. Their young people regularly come to our coffee morning to help develop their skills in meeting and talking with other people. We also took lessons for classes from Lambton Primary. The weekly lunch club at Biddick Academy focusing on ecology from a Christian ethos came to an end as the teachers involved moved on to other schools. Biddick Academy joined a MAT and changed everything in the summer which brought an end to the governing board.

Give thanks for:

- All our work with young people and staff at the local schools we serve.
- Ongoing Assemblies, Christmas Services and lessons.
- Christian staff and pupils in our schools.

Pray for:

- Further opportunities to share the gospel and deepen relationships with schools.
- That relationships with Biddick Academy would not come to an end, rather develop and grow, especially with the community café and young people volunteering.

- The Christian faith to be seen as a good thing for young people and opportunities to share the gospel more widely with staff and students.
- Teachers, pupils and their families might come to salvation.

Youth Group

Lucy and Nick run the weekly youth group that has 11 members aged 11-18. We also join with other youth groups at diocesan events in the Cathedral and put on our own occasional activities. There are plans to launch a monthly youth club for the community in the new annexe.

Give thanks for:

- Regular group of young people who seem to enjoy looking at God's word and sharing time together.
- The growth in faith in many of the young people
- Young people standing up for their faith in schools and at home.

Pray for:

- Continued growth in number and depth of faith and understanding
- Leaders to grow the new youth club in 2025
- New leaders to take on the youth group as Nick and Lucy move on.
- Those young people who struggle at school and in life, especially with anxiety and mental health

World Giving

We give 10% of our freewill giving to support wider mission in the world, locally and internationally, supporting our three-year partners and to the charities put forward for one-year gifts. This year we were able to support:

1 year cycle

Leprosy Mission

CARE Christian Action Research and Education

UFM

Sunderland Connect Network

ARCA Moldova

Release International

Samaritans Purse (Operation Christmas Child)

Each to received £332.80

3 year cycle

Nightingales

Book and Bread

IMC

Durham Lesotho

Rock of Ages

Gipsy Ministry

Each received £665.60

We are so thankful that God has put us in a position here we could again support these organisations.

In Christ's Name, Doug Green – Treasurer

Parish Administrator's Report

The ending of my report for the APCM 2023 was for hope that the new annex and café would come to fruition and for our church family and community to share the space and that is now a reality which is truly an answer to prayer.

I moved into the new church office in September 2024 it is so more welcoming and has windows I can see out of and open !

As part of my role we have spaces we can hire out in the annex and I get a lot of enquiry's from different groups and people wishing to know more about the spaces we have and it's my job to ensure all the paperwork is filled out and correct, and invoices are sent out and payments received.

I am also a part of the pastoral team which is very important to me and being in the office gives me the opportunity when the occasion arises to listen and to help where I can.

The daily running of the office is very busy and can be challenging, and very rewarding at the same time.

I am so thankful for the support I have in the office from Nick, Chris, Terry and Doug.

I am thankful and so grateful for the support from my church family.

I pray that now we have our wonderful community café and the annex that those who walk through our doors will come to know Jesus, and to give us that know Jesus, the courage to sow that seed and He will do the rest.

Lorraine Cook

Parish Administrator

Electoral Roll

The Application form for Enrolment on the Church Electoral Roll of the “Parish for St Georges Church Fatfield” has to be renewed every 6 years.

Therefore, we have carried out this process, inviting all persons who wish to have their names entered on the new Roll, whether their names are entered on the present Roll or not.

On completion of this process there are (106) people now on the 2025 Electoral Roll.

Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick

Our Pastoral Team: continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday every other month, meeting 6 times a year. We use our meetings to feedback how our support is going and identify any further needs.

We also look to develop the team finding appropriate training. September 2024, a few of us attended “Spiritual care and well-being of older people, in particular with dementia”.

October 2024, Kathy from Washington MIND came to our church to deliver a course “A Life Worth Living” suicide prevention, to most of the pastoral team and a few church family. This was challenging but everyone thought it was very worthwhile.

Making links with our contact to Age-UK.

We continue to provide Home Communion to those who are unable to get to church.

We also continue our strong relationship with St Georges Care Home, where Pat strives to provide a service once a month at the home. Welcoming the residents to our 10pm service, our Monday and Friday Cuppa, Cake & Company mornings and any special services we hold.

During 2024 we organised day bus trips, using Lee’s of Durham coaches.

Bereavement Support Group – during 2024 our BSG were able to continue meeting in church, even while the building work was being carried out. We find great support in our meetings and welcoming new people who come to join.

Prayers for the Sick: Our group continues to pray individually each day for many people, covering all kinds of illnesses and situations. We come together once a month to pray collectively for each person who is in need of our prayers. This is such a lovely ministry and we continue to receive the prayers for those in need.

The Memorial Service of Thanksgiving: was held on the 16th June 2024, this was later than normal, due to the building work being carried out. During the service the names of loved ones are read out and many people said they felt it was such a moving and meaningful service.

St Luke's Day service of Healing: was held on the 20th October. During the service people are invited to be blessed and anointed. Again, this service was greatly appreciated, reflecting on many types of healing.

We thank God for his calling and the love that He has for us all, we ask that He will continue to bless our team in their ministry.

Mothers' Union

Fatfield Branch of Mother's Union has had a challenging year.

After losing dear Mary Gorog a faithful member for many years, our membership went down to 5.

We also lost 2 past members Margaret Reed & Peggy Pestell who resided in St George's Care Home.

Owing to ill health, transport difficulties and caring duties we as a committee feel that the time is right to temporary suspend our meetings.

We thank Audrey for opening up her home for meetings last year.

We give thanks for everyone who has been part of Mothers Union here at St George's, past and present all the fun and friendships we have experienced.

We pray that someone will come along and feel able to start us up again in the future.

Brenda, Audrey, Margaret, Elspeth and Edith

Church Wardens' Report 2024-2025

As always, we give a huge thanks to give to the wonderful congregation at St. George's. We are truly blessed the willingness of our Church family. He graveyard looks lovely, thanks to the volunteers who faithfully tend it. Ditto the inside of the building, it too is looked after by a dedicated group of volunteers. We are also grateful for the good will and support of all who worship here, at the three weekly services.

Sunday 10am service – it continues to bring the largest congregation, being a mixture of adults and children. This past year we have welcomed some newcomers, and as always, we optimistically hope this next year will bring more newcomers with whom we may share the word of God.

Sunday 4pm. Sadly we have lost some well loved members of the congregation, but a steady faithful group are still sharing worship regularly. For this service and the 10am service our worship is enhanced by musicians plus a small but enthusiastic choir. We praise God for their dedication.

Wednesday 9.30. Several regular members of this group are now missing; some have died whilst others have health problems. However, a faithful group remains, and enjoys sharing fellowship following the service.

Speaking of sharing fellowship – we rejoice that the annex is completed and is no longer referred to as The Annex. It is now The Table, and thus far it is bringing local people into the building. Our aim has always been to serve the community, and we pray that we shall continue to do so. It is early days of course, but we serve an amazing God, and are optimistic this will be a remarkable outreach.

Some weeks ago we were both saddened to hear that Nick is leaving us – as is the entire congregation. Naturally we had hoped he would remain with us for years to come. However, we must continue with God's work, and focus upon sharing the word of God and reaching out to the community.

So – we have serious issues to lift up in prayer.

We need to give ongoing prayer support to Nick, Lucy, Elisheba and Raph, asking God to assist and guide them as they settle into a new home and a new parish. Of course it will not be easy after being here for such a long time, but we ask that by God's grace they will be made welcome and settle there quickly.

Pray for the congregation at St. George's, that we remain close and supportive of one another. We do have a wonderful fellowship, but we mustn't become complacent.

Pray for the PCC, that they will have unity and wisdom.

Pray for The Table, that it will prosper spiritually and financially. Prayer support is also needed for Nadine and the volunteers, without whom it cannot continue.

As always, we are thankful for the love and support of our Christian family, and also to Eileen and Rob for their dedicated and very welcome assistance.

God bless all of you – Terry and Chris.

St George's Building Group

2024 was a difficult time for the Group. Most of the year the Annexe building was being progressed and work on our existing building was done on an ad hoc basis.

During the year there were modifications done to lighting and heating, sanitary appliances were upgraded or repaired, the broken wooden backs to the chairs were removed and refitted with stronger adhesive.

By far the biggest task was undertaken by Peter Watson and Roger Thornhill when they took the units which had previously been in our Servedy and they transformed them into one very smart and accessible storage unit situated in the meeting room on the first floor. It is a work of art and is worth taking a look at when you have the opportunity.

Once more we are indebted to Peter, Roger, Nigel Heppell, Brian Pritchard and Norman Fatherley for the tremendous work they do in the graveyard and surrounding areas. This part of our church is kept in pristine condition and is a credit to those who maintain it.

We now have a new Annexe with all its added problems so it is important that we keep up the good work as we have done in the past.

We give thanks for:

The volunteers and their skills who have completed many tasks throughout the year

We pray for:

The health of the group members who are all over 70

More volunteers to join us, particularly younger ones, as our building is now about twice its size and therefore has a greater workload maintaining it.

Washington Community Food Project

Working with St George's Church

2024 was another busy year for the Washington Community Food Project as a relentless battering of affordability issues- housing, fuel, food and inflation- continued to hit people's pockets hard.

Yet, amid these hardships, we have witnessed the extraordinary generosity of our community. The overwhelming support we receive from local people is what keeps our doors open. St George's Church has always been a staunch supporter of the project and your contributions make a real difference.

We simply couldn't do what we do without you. YOU provide the funds and food for us to distribute. Our clients do not eat without YOUR help. Struggling households don't have to choose between heating & eating thanks to YOUR gifts and vulnerable people have a lifeline to reach out to in their darkest times because of YOUR kindness.

Your donations in 2024 enabled us to provide almost 1900 food parcels to over 4000 people in need, offer free lunches to all school children during each and every holiday and to sponsor healthy snacks within two local primary schools.

As we move ahead in 2025, the need for food banks is projected to remain high, potentially increasing due to factors like the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing social and economic challenges. Reviews to Universal Credit and disability payments, such as PIP, is pushing more families towards food poverty. But with the continued support of our friends at St George's Church, the WCFP will rise to meet the challenge and provide help and hope for all those who need it.

Nicola Jobson- Interim Chair

Meet and Eat

Meet and Eat only ran for a few months at the start of 2024, as once the servery was removed for the building work, we no longer had a kitchen. We restarted with the Christmas meal in the annexe, which was very well attended.

We are thankful we still have enough volunteers and that the new kitchen has made food preparation and cooking easier.

We pray the lunch club will continue to grow and that everyone, especially newcomers, will enjoy the company and fellowship of others.

Keira Batchelor

Cuppa, cake and company (CCC)

The 'coffee' mornings have been running for nearly 4 years (starting in April 2021) and continue to flourish. We attract around 30 to 50 people new and old. The new annex opened at the end of 2024 which means more people are aware of CCC. Together with our link to St. George's nursing home we have regular visits from the carers and residents plus some of the staff and pupils at Harry Watts Academy in Harraton.

Pastries, cakes and scones are either homemade or donated from surplus stock from businesses. Monetary donations help towards the purchase of tea, coffee etc and the running costs, with the main focus on fellowship and community.

2024 was a year of many structural changes and challenges for the CCC teams. The porch was knocked down and the storage units moved into church, the servery (proposed new entrance) was removed later in the year which meant we had to 'set up camp' in church (no washing up facilities or water supply on tap). Visitors were offered take away style cups or they could bring their own 'mug'. But CCC appeared to continue 'as normal' as our volunteers rose to the challenge, ferrying water etc. At the end of the year, we 'moved' into the Community room (still setting up from the coffee point and moving tables from the storage room) as this room is hired out for various events during the week. However, we now have use of the dishwasher and are helped by the café volunteers when they aren't busy.

The new annexe including The Table café (which 'opened' early Dec 2024) will also aid our outreach and ministry in the community and beyond.

We give thanks for:

- The volunteers who give their time using their gifts on a Monday and Friday
- The people from the community who come to CCC
- The new café, opening more opportunities for fellowship and pastoral work within the parish

We pray for:

- Continued faith and strength for ALL volunteers, that they know how much they are appreciated
- More volunteers to help spread the work load and provide cover for holiday periods
- The new Table café venture, its volunteers and Nadine our café manager starting 2025.

Gail Watson and the CCC Teams

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and we have the relevant policies in place, which are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

We give thanks for:

- No issues regarding Safeguarding
- St George's being a safe place for those that seek peace.
- The continued support of Leslie Stevens as deputy designated safeguarding officer.
- PCC members and other volunteers who have undertaken safeguarding training and accreditation.
- Access to the Safeguarding hub provided by the Diocese.

We pray for:

- The Diocesan Safeguarding team – who continue to support us.
- Continues vigilance by the St George's community in being aware of safeguarding issues.

Doug Green

Cleaning Team

The cleaning team meets after coffee morning on Fridays at approximately 11.30am and consists of Avril, Betty, Sharon and Len.

We concentrate on getting the Sunday worshipping area (nave) of the church clean and tidy for the services and this involves cleaning the disabled toilet ab, the chairs, all the brasswork and the chairs and vacuuming the carpet.

We also clean the new lobby area leading to the Admin office and the area which previously held the servery. We keep the upstairs toilets and staircase clean as the first-floor kitchen is used on a regular basis.

If anyone feels that they have time and would like to assist us in our chores, it would be greatly appreciated.

We give thanks for:

We are thankful to God that we are able and willing to serve Him

We pray for:

We pray that more people come forward to help us in our labours.

Toddlers

After some consideration the decision to continue to use the main church building for Toddlers on a Tuesday was taken rather than move into the café building and frightening the customers – only joking! The team set up on a Monday afternoon ready for Tuesday morning with the toys safely stored in the corner.

We continue to be a team of four (and two trusty gentlemen) but whenever we need extra hands the parents/grandparents, including Ruth and Charlie Forster are always ready to help.

The group continues to be very well supported, we currently have 25 children on our register and a waiting list. Both adults and children appreciate the time they spend with us at Toddlers and it has been lovely to see many of them coming into the café during the week, as well as the parents/grandparents of children who have now gone to school/nursery.

We offer the children time to play and learn alongside each other, share a story and craft as well as juice and a biscuit. The children really enjoy both our Christmas party and end of year party. When the children finally leave us, each child receives a Bible which we hope will draw them back to Church one day and we can help them grow in faith.

We also try to make time for the adults who bring children/grandchildren. We talk to them and are ready to answer questions about our faith and the church. Sometimes they just need a listening ear about something at home that is worrying them – we have established good and trusting relationships with them.

We give thanks for:

- Our volunteers who give up their time so readily to serve the community.
- The opportunities this ministry gives us to bring both adults and children to faith.
- The blessings we receive in serving God in this way.

We pray for:

- Each person who comes through the church doors each Tuesday morning
- The volunteers, that their commitment and strength to serve in this way is maintained and indeed that others offer to join us.

God Bless St George's Church Family who serves this community so well.

Lynn Green

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

Lucy and I continue to lead the two small groups of children who attend the service each Sunday morning. Lucy uses the main body of the church café for the older group (key Stage 2) and I use the small meeting room with the younger children. (Nursery and Key Stage 1)

The younger group use 'CLICK' – a bible centred teaching material that gives the children the opportunity to discuss Bible stories and themes relating them to their own lives and experiences. We always plan a craft alongside this and something the children can take home to remind them of their teaching time - this can be used to discuss with parents/carers.

The older group read the Bible together and explore and discuss each reading, asking challenging questions and offering their own thoughts and ideas, as they continue to grow in faith and their knowledge and understanding of Jesus and what he can do for them. They all participate in retelling the story in a very practical way using the medium of construction and drawing.

Last Christmas the two groups joined together to share a retelling of the birth of Jesus with the church family. Those children who attend youth group took responsibility for the readings and music.

As Nick and the family will be leaving us this summer to take on new challenges and move south, the implications for our Sunday School will be great and we need the prayers and support of all to help us continue this crucial and important ministry – these children are the future of our church family.

The children and I will really miss Lucy, and we thank her for all her hard work, her faith and friendship. I am sure that the young people in the new parish they go to will benefit from her commitment, trust and belief in Jesus

We have had four members of the church family who are considering helping on a Sunday, please pray for them, that they will feel God's calling and he will speak into their hearts.

The children of our church are a blessing and working with them is a deeply rewarding experience both spiritually and personally.

We give thanks for:

- The children who regularly attend St George's church
- The many blessings children's ministry brings.
- The parents/grandparents and other adults who bring children to church where they can meet with Jesus.
- Lucy and Nick and everything they have done for the young people in our community, particularly within our own church family.

We pray for:

- The volunteers who are considering being part of children's ministry
- The children who come to St George's – that they will carry the message of Jesus into all aspects of their lives.
- Lucy, Nick, Elishiba and Raph and their new life in Chichester.
- More young families to come to St George's Church so that our group can grow and with it our hopes for the future of our church family.

Lynn Green

Minutes of the Annual Report to Parishioners Meeting held on Sunday 19th May 2024

after the 10am service

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, FATFIELD

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer & Worship

NBH opened by welcoming all attending the meeting commenting that he felt any business in the Vestry meeting would also be covered in the APCM itself & had no separate report. He offered prayer, asking God to bring us under His sovereignty, joined in prayer by some attendees.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commenting that he hoped all there had received their minutes from the previous meeting & that he again did not intend to go through the whole report, only taking parishioners through any essential business, NBH asked if there were any queries about the minutes from last year. There was nothing raised, & the 2023 minutes having been published previously for all to read were accepted as correct, this being proposed by Chris Hope (CH) & seconded by Ruth Forster (RF), with 32 votes for & 2 Abstentions.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising not to be addressed in the following meeting.

4. Election of Wardens

NBH offered further thanks to CH, especially for her friendly advice, commenting that he knew how hard she was working & thanked those supporting her. He believes it is wonderful that people had also stepped forward to serve with her. CH confirmed that she was willing to stand for a further year, & Terry Wyatt (TW) had indicated he was happy to step forward & become our other Warden, proposed by CH, seconded by DG & carried unanimously. Several members prayed for both CH & TW, asking for His blessings on them both, & asking for His protection & wisdom as the Bishop's representatives.

The Vestry Meeting was closed.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Opening Prayer

NBH opened this meeting by reading from the Gospel & in prayer, asking that we would be guided through the business by the Lord.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from:- Sheila Beale, Margaret Birrell, Jo-Anne Cohrs, Jean Greener, Lucille Hutchinson, Jo Lawson, Tom Lawson, Heather Livingstone, Audrey Rayner, Louise Singleton, Elizabeth Taylor, Maurice Taylor, John Thomas, Trish Thomas, Lynn Wyatt, Denise Young.

Attendees at meeting were:- Betty Adams (BA), Len Adams (LA), Elspeth Baird (EB), Lucy Barr-Hamilton (LBH), Nick Barr-Hamilton (NBH), Clive Bowman (CB), Maureen Bowman (MB), Pat Davis (PD), Harry Ellis (HE), Norman Fatherley (NF), Sheila Fatherley (SF), Eileen Fletcher (EF), David Ford (DF), Ruth Forster (RF), Doug Green (DG), Lynn Green (LG), Maurice Hepworth (MH), Christine Hope (CH), Jenny Hughes (JH), Heather Livingstone (HL), David Owen (DO), Norma Owen (NO), Andrea Pritchard (AP), Laura Rear (LR), Jeff Robertshaw (JR), Anna Snell (AS), Leslie Stevens (LS), Ellen Tizzard (ET), Gail Watson (GW), Peter Watson (PW), Betty Weddell (BW), Tom Weddell (TW), Avril Winship (AW), & Eve Winstanley (EW).

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting on 9th May 2023

The minutes of the 2023 meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by GW, seconded by EF with 13 votes for & 20 abstentions.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

EW, our Electoral Roll Officer, remarked on details given to her by Lorraine Cook, our Administrator, also advising that a copy of the Roll is available in the Office for anybody who wished to view it. We now have 117 names on the Electoral Roll, having lost 4 because of deaths, with 1 new name added & no-one removed. There were no questions for EW.

6. Presentation of Reports (as circulated previously)

NBH reminded the meeting that as these had been circulated previously for members to read, he did not intend to talk to each one as he hoped that everyone had had the opportunity to read through these but would ask if people wanted to comment further on their reports. He remarked that it personally was a wonderful privilege to serve Christ in church. Thanking all for the time & effort they have given to help the community he

commented that it was a blessing to be vicar at St Georges, to give worshipful service. He commented on the relationships built with the local schools, especially through the weekly contact at the Coffee, Cake & Chat coffee morning with Harry Watt Academy. He gave blessings that the Lord had kept us safe.

- Wardens 'Report: NBH asked CH if she wished to add anything to her report previously published, & she thanked all for their support over the past year. There were no questions of CH.
- Safeguarding: NBH confirmed that there had been no incidents to report on, & gave thanks that the Lord has continued to keep us all safe. He thanked both DG & LS for their work as our Safeguarding Officer & his deputy.
- Deanery Synod: NBH advised that little of any note had happened on Deanery Synod & it continued to seem that since Covid not a great deal had happened within the Deanery.
- Treasurer's Report: DG apologised for the size of his report in the Report Booklet but things have changed slightly due the accounts being dealt with by a firm of Accountants (of which more would be said later). He advised that this firm are very used to dealing with churches but their reporting period runs over a different time to what we have previously being used to. He was sure our church community would have read everything in detail! He commented about the grants we have continued to receive & have been able to use for various events in the annexe. He told the meeting that he praised & thanked the Lord that we continue to remain in credit, explaining various figures to the congregation, & what they meant. In closing DG commented that it was again wonderful that we were able to pay our Parish Share again this year but pointed out how challenging it will be this coming year to achieve this. Thanking DG for all his work & advising of his own thanks that generous giving had kept the lights on & church going NBH asked for continued prayer for the year to come. We have a generous God that we serve & we should honour Him. NBH asked for a proposal that the 2023 Church Accounts were accepted which was made by LA, seconded by AP & carried unanimously.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years)

NBH thanked those who have stood as PCC members for the last year & any standing down this year. NBH reminded people that proposals could be accepted from the floor, although no-one did volunteer, & the nominations of Clive Bowman, proposed by GW, seconded by LBH, Ruth Forster, proposed by TW & seconded by EF, & Eileen Fletcher, proposed by LG, seconded by TW, & all proposals were carried unanimously. Thanking those that had stood this year NBH reminded PCC members that as the church is now a Registered Charity they are classed as Trustees. Prayer was offered for the new PCC & Trustees, asking for His wisdom & grace for them all in their discussions, giving them insight & humility.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

NBH officially thanked our external auditors, KL Accountants, suggesting that we re-appointed them for the coming year which was carried.

9. Chairman's Report

NBH remarked that he hoped people had all had the opportunity to read his comments in the Report booklet & did not have much to add but mentioned that it had been wonderful to welcome our new café manager LR, & that there had been a huge response to requests for volunteers. The café will go 'live' on 3rd June with a plan to start gently & with Gods grace many would enjoy the hospitality offered.

10. Any Other Business

The only further business NBH was aware of was that we formally need to confirm a change to our standing orders regarding church representation and revert to the standard rules of the Church of

Accounts

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

UNAUDITED

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

CONTENTS

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers	1
Trustees' Report	2 - 7
Independent Examiner's Report	8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Statement of Cash Flows	11
Notes to the Financial Statements	12 - 27
 The following pages do not form part of the statutory financial statements:	
Appendix I	28 - 45

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Trustees	Rev Nick Barr- Hamilton, Chair Mrs Christine Hope, Warden Mr Maurice Taylor, Reader Mrs Patricia Hampton Matthews, Reader Mrs Eve Winstanley, APA Mr George Len Adams, Elected member Mr Douglas Green, Treasurer Ms Tarahneh Etemadi, Elected member Mr Ross Kendall, Elected member (appointed 9 May 2023) Mrs Andrea Pritchard, Elected member Mrs Anna Snell, Elected member (appointed 9 May 2023) Mrs Leslie Stevens, Elected member Mrs Gail Watson, Elected member Mr Peter Watson, Elected member Mrs Lynn Wyatt, Elected member (resigned 9 May 2023) Mrs Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Deanery Synod Representative
Charity registered number	1190509
Principal office	Vigo Lane Harraton Washington Tyne & Wear NE38 9AH
Secretary	Mrs Ruth Forster
Accountants	Kinnair Associates Limited Chartered Accountants Aston House Redburn Road Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1NB
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ The Co-operative Bank plc P.O. Box 250 Skelmersdale WN8 6WT

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton, promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in His church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

a. Policies and objectives

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including Safeguarding, Data Protection, Health and Safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support the incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. To this end there are both study and home groups;
- provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) community drop in coffee mornings, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth group, a warm space initiative and a number of other community groups; and
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and have facilities fit for use in the 21st Century. During the year work began to construct an annexe onto the church building to better enable us to achieve this given the limitations of the existing building and its facilities.

In setting objectives and planning for activities, the Trustees have given due consideration to general guidance published by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit, including the guidance 'Public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

b. Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. Over 50 people are involved in volunteering at St George's. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them all by name, but you work in service of Christ and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Objectives and activities (continued)

c. Safeguarding

Mr Doug Green served as the elected Safeguarding Officer through 2023 with Mrs Leslie Stevens serving as deputy.

The PCC of St George's have adopted and pay due regard to safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the internal notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

Achievements and performance

a. Main achievements of the Charity

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports the local community with. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community, including a cream tea, community meals, a summer 'Holiday Hunger' week and Easter & Christmas craft cafes.

All are welcome to our regular services. Weekly we have three services to which on average over 90 people attend. There is a monthly 8am communion service. There are 117 parishioners on the electoral roll. We welcome visitors on most Sundays of the year and to all of our activities.

In addition to our regular services and groups, we conduct baptisms and occasional weddings, as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service. Through Lent, we read 'Planetwise' to help people think through creation care from a Biblical perspective. Over 30 people attended the two six week courses, some of whom were not church members, but just people with a passion for the environment.

Our Easter and Christmas services returned to a more normal pattern in 2023, but there remain some changes later in the year due to construction work onsite. The church continued to hold many funerals and burials in 2023 and the churchyard now only has a few new plots remaining.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision.

Through the autumn and winter, the church again functioned as a Warm Space several days a week supporting dozens of people with a warm place to meet and socialise. We are grateful for support from Sunderland Council and The Coalfields Trust to support this initiative.

During the year, the Trustees voted to become members of the Real Living Wage Foundation.

Financial review

a. Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

b. Reserves policy

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover three months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th 2018.

For year end 2023 there was a significant restricted fund of £764,110 that will be spent in 2024 on the new annexe building project.

c. Risk management

The Trustees are responsible for risk management within the church.

A general risk assessment of the building is in place for all users. Each group that operates within the church is expected to have considered risk in how they operate and risk assessments are expected where significant risks are identified.

Given its scale and cost, a substantial Risk Management document for the Community Annexe Project was produced with support from the professional team and risk is regularly discussed at Trustee meetings. This has been used through the project.

Our regular ongoing operations are predominantly funded through regular local giving by church members with no one individual being substantial enough to present a significant risk to church finances. Whilst highly unlikely, if income were to fall dramatically, there is significant flexibility in the parish share system to ensure no short term existential risk to the viability of the church exists. No external funder represent more than 10% of ongoing costs.

Safeguarding risk is managed through paying due regard to the guidance from the Church of England and ensuring all relevant volunteers are safeguarding trained and DBS checked.

Risk assessments of activities are carried out, the church ensures its insurance is fit for purpose and a Health and Safety policy is in place and reviewed annually. External users are expected to follow our policies or have their own suitable policies in place for risk and safeguarding.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

d. Financial review for the year

The Financial review produced by our Treasurer and independently examined is available later in this document. The PCC and incumbent are incredibly grateful to all who give financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £79,862 of which £53,626 was unrestricted voluntary donations, and a further £10,825 was from Gift Aid. Restricted donations of £108,480 were also received and are detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased and it was good to see the use of Gift Aid increasing.

Total income, including tax recovered but excluding the annexe funds, went up by 11% compared with last year.

We were grateful for substantial grants of £416,500 towards our annexe project and thank God for his faithfulness in providing sufficient funding for the bulk of the project – after Value Engineering – to go ahead. The details of these grants can be found in the accounts.

£78,714 was spent from unrestricted funds to provide the Christian ministry from St. George's Church, including the contribution to the diocesan parish share that largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. Inflation and fuel costs had significant impact on our building running costs and are grateful to Sunderland Council for further Warm Space grants that enabled us to continue as a 'Warm Space' in 2023.

The sum that the churches in the deanery have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based on size of church, income and deprivation index.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £1,148 on unrestricted funds.

Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December on unrestricted funds totalled £33,137 of which £15,000 has been set aside to meet final costs of the community annexe project and is carried forward as a designated fund.

Structure, governance and management

a. Constitution

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

b. Methods of appointment or election of Trustees

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and APAs, any members of CofE Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the APCM and those co-opted by the PCC.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Structure, governance and management (continued)

c. Organisational structure and decision-making policies

The full PCC (Trustees) meets nine times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings Group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting.

The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, Whistle Blowing, Anti-Fraud, Domestic Abuse, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

d. Financial risk management

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Charity, and are satisfied that systems and procedures are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

e. Administration

The day to day management of church activities is delegated to the Incumbent and the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook, who we thank for her diligent and effective work in keeping the organisation of everything running smoothly.

Plans for future periods

Our separate vision document contains plans for where we feel God calling us, but 2024 will see us continue to take the church forward in a very changed world. Heating cost remain high, but with the construction of the new annexe due for completion in May 2024, much of our work will take place in a modern well insulated and efficient building. Worship will continue in our Victorian church building. As funds are raised we plan to add PV panels and generate our own electricity enabling us to move off electrification of our heating.

2024 will see the beginnings of a step chain in how we achieve our aims and purpose. The setting up of a community café and employing a Café Manager will open up further opportunities to work with partners in supporting our community, where there are many isolated, lonely and vulnerable people. These changes will bring a level of uncertainty, but we will work with others, including the social enterprise support team of the BIC (Business and Innovation Centre) Sunderland to help deliver the business plan. Funding is in place for the first year of the Café Manager. The plan is that it will become self sufficient over time.

While the annexe construction project has been all encompassing, we must also keep focussed on the primary objectives of the church that this new annexe would enable. We will continue to work with partners, including Washington Community Food Project and Active Families North-East to serve and support people in our community.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Independent examination

Owing to the substantial capital grants received for the annexe building project our income has risen above the threshold where we can report on a receipts and payments basis. These accounts have been prepared on an accruals basis and the PCC appointed Kinnair Associates Limited as our Independent Examiner for 2023 and 2024.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 7 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev. Nick Barr-Hamilton

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St George's Church Fatfield ('the Charity')

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the Trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institution of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the Charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

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

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

This report is made solely to the Charity's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the Charity's Trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an Independent Examiner's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Charity and the Charity's Trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Signed:

Dated: 10 May 2024

Detlev Anderson

FCA

Aston House
Redburn Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE5 1NB

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Endowment funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	64,451	540,681	-	605,132	119,792
Community and church groups		6,926	-	-	6,926	4,572
Interest and dividends		-	6,313	533	6,846	1,418
Other church activities		8,485	-	-	8,485	11,182
Total income and endowments		79,862	546,994	533	627,389	136,964
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities		78,714	9,702	-	88,416	81,568
Total expenditure		78,714	9,702	-	88,416	81,568
Net income before net gains/(losses) on investments						
		1,148	537,292	533	538,973	55,396
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	1,093	1,093	(2,050)
Net income		1,148	537,292	1,626	540,066	53,346
Transfers between funds	12	-	33,537	(33,537)	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,148	570,829	(31,911)	540,066	53,346
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		31,989	201,903	31,911	265,803	212,457
Net movement in funds		1,148	570,829	(31,911)	540,066	53,346
Total funds carried forward		33,137	772,732	-	805,869	265,803

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	333,961	21,519
Investments	9	-	31,911
		<u>333,961</u>	<u>53,430</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	3,900	1,295
Cash at bank and in hand		542,466	218,132
		<u>546,366</u>	<u>219,427</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(74,458)	(7,054)
Net current assets		<u>471,908</u>	<u>212,373</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>805,869</u>	<u>265,803</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		<u>805,869</u>	<u>265,803</u>
Total net assets		<u>805,869</u>	<u>265,803</u>
Charity funds			
Endowment funds	12	-	31,911
Restricted funds	12	772,732	201,903
Unrestricted funds	12	33,137	31,989
Total funds		<u>805,869</u>	<u>265,803</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 07 May 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Rev Nick Barr- Hamilton

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net cash used in operating activities	597,702	59,737
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	6,070	1,418
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(312,442)	(21,519)
Purchase of investments	(533)	(672)
Net cash inflow in respect of endowment capital	33,537	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(273,368)	(20,773)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	324,334	38,964
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	218,132	179,168
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	542,466	218,132

The notes on pages 12 to 27 form part of these financial statements

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. General information

St George's Church Fatfield is a charity registered in England and Wales (charity number 1190509). The registered office is St George's Church, Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington, Tyne and Wear, NE38 9AH.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair' view. This departure has involved following the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

St George's Church Fatfield meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

This is the first year that the accounts have been prepared using the accruals accounting method.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of the going concern basis is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Trust to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period one year from the date of authorisation of issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the trust's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised in the financial statements when it is received, or on an accruals basis where it can be assured with reasonable certainty and is receivable by the balance sheet date. Income tax recoverable on voluntary donations is recognised in the financial statements when it is receivable from HM Revenue and Customs.

Grants are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance Sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

All other incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities on a cash received basis or on an accruals basis where they are assured with reasonable certainty and receivable by the balance sheet date.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and support costs involved in undertaking each activity.

Direct costs are those costs that are capable of being allocated directly to a charitable activity.

Support costs are those costs which cannot be attributed to a single activity, such as the administration staff roles. The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice requires that support costs are separately identified and then allocated between the Charity's activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. In practice, all support costs are allocated against ministry activities.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

2.5 Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

2.6 Taxation

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. All costs incurred to bring a tangible fixed asset into its intended working condition should be included in the measurement of cost.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Freehold property	-	2%
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2.8 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the Balance Sheet date, unless the value cannot be measured reliably in which case it is measured at cost less impairment. Investment gains and losses, whether realised or unrealised, are combined and presented as 'Gains/(Losses) on investments' in the Statement of Financial Activities.

2.9 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

2.10 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

2.11 Liabilities and provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance Sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as a finance cost.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.12 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.13 Fund accounting

Endowment funds are restricted funds that must be retained as trust capital either permanently or subject to a discretionary power to spend capital as income, and where the use of any income or other benefit derived from the capital may be restricted or unrestricted.

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations			
Planned Giving	9,285	11,050	20,335
Collections at services	2,824	-	2,824
Other voluntary income	41,517	10,471	51,988
Gift Aid recovered	10,825	5,431	16,256
Grants			
Sunderland City Council	-	10,000	10,000
Community Lottery Fund	-	55,000	55,000
The Community Ownership Fund	-	250,000	250,000
Other Annexe grants	-	111,500	111,500
Subtotal detailed disclosure	64,451	453,452	517,903

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

3. Income from donations and legacies (continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Other donations	-	87,229	87,229
Subtotal	-	87,229	87,229
Total 2023	64,451	540,681	605,132
	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations			
Planned giving	9,557	11,595	21,152
Collections at services	2,788	-	2,788
Other voluntary income	37,982	16,206	54,188
Gift Aid recovered	9,612	16,342	25,954
Grants			
Warm Spaces	-	10,711	10,711
Annexe	-	4,999	4,999
Subtotal detailed disclosure	59,939	59,853	119,792
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>59,939</i>	<i>59,853</i>	<i>119,792</i>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Ministry	9,844	14,337	24,181
Building and Grounds	13,082	-	13,082
Community and Mission	9,062	-	9,062
Diocesan and similar costs	42,091	-	42,091
Total 2023	<u>74,079</u>	<u>14,337</u>	<u>88,416</u>

	<i>Activities undertaken directly 2022 £</i>	<i>Support costs 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Ministry	5,831	11,337	17,168
Building and Grounds	11,031	6	11,037
Community and Mission	8,619	-	8,619
Diocesan and similar costs	44,744	-	44,744
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>70,225</u>	<u>11,343</u>	<u>81,568</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Ministry 2023 £	Building and Grounds 2023 £	Community and Mission 2023 £	Diocesan 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Parish share	-	-	-	40,000	40,000
Service and other ministry costs	2,417	-	-	-	2,417
Clergy expenses	353	-	-	-	353
Insurance	6,280	-	-	-	6,280
Heat, light and water	-	8,872	-	-	8,872
Building and grounds maintenance	-	3,937	-	-	3,937
Overseas giving	-	-	5,539	-	5,539
Donations paid on	-	-	334	-	334
Community groups	-	-	3,189	-	3,189
Other costs	794	273	-	2,091	3,158
Total 2023	9,844	13,082	9,062	42,091	74,079

	Ministry 2022 £	Building and Grounds 2022 £	Community and Mission 2022 £	Diocesan 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Parish share	-	-	-	41,000	41,000
Service and other ministry costs	2,222	-	-	-	2,222
Clergy expenses	190	-	-	-	190
Insurance	2,487	-	-	-	2,487
Heat, light and water	-	8,901	-	-	8,901
Building and grounds maintenance	-	2,130	-	-	2,130
Overseas giving	-	-	5,516	-	5,516
Donations paid on	-	-	744	-	744
Community groups	-	-	2,359	-	2,359
Other costs	932	-	-	3,744	4,676
Total 2022	5,831	11,031	8,619	44,744	70,225

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

4. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Ministry 2023 £	Building and Grounds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Staff costs	10,951	-	10,951
Education and training	229	-	229
Telephone, website and internet	733	-	733
Printing, postage and stationery	459	-	459
Other costs	365	-	365
Independent examination	1,600	-	1,600
Total 2023	<u>14,337</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,337</u>

	<i>Ministry 2022 £</i>	<i>Building and Grounds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	9,819	-	9,819
Service and other ministry costs	30	-	30
Clergy expenses	26	-	26
Telephone, website and internet	380	-	380
Printing, postage and stationery	529	-	529
Annexe project	-	6	6
Other costs	553	-	553
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>11,337</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11,343</u>

5. Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the Charity's independent examiner for the independent examination of the Charity's annual accounts	<u>1,600</u>	<u>-</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	10,951	9,819
	<u>10,951</u>	<u>9,819</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The PCC employs an administrator to assist with the administration of church activities. There were no employee benefits paid to key management personnel or Trustees in the current or previous years.

7. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

In the normal course of the Charity's activities some of the Trustees, while acting as volunteers, incur expenditure on behalf of the Charity for which they are reimbursed.

No other payments or expenses were paid to any other Trustees, persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

The Trustees, as members of the church, may make voluntary contributions to support church activities. No individual Trustee's contribution was material during the current or previous year.

8. Tangible fixed assets

	Assets under construction £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 January 2023	21,519
Additions	312,442
	<u>333,961</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>333,961</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

8. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Assets under construction £
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	333,961
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	<i>21,519</i>

At the year end the church annexe, to be used by community groups and for other church activities on completion, was under construction. No depreciation has been charged as the building was not in use at the year end, but depreciation will be charged at 2% per annum once the building is in use.

9. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted investments £
At 1 January 2023	31,911
Additions	533
Disposals	(33,537)
Revaluations	1,093
At 31 December 2023	-
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	-
<i>At 31 December 2022</i>	<i>31,911</i>

The investment was the Fatfield 7/1 Church Hall Trust Fund, held by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee. The Fund could be used for ecclesiastical purposes and was closed on 30 November 2023, the funds being transferred to St George's Fatfield.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Prepayments and accrued income	3,900	1,295
	<u>3,900</u>	<u>1,295</u>

11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Creditors	58,217	3,396
Other taxation and social security	150	20
Accruals and deferred income	16,091	3,638
	<u>74,458</u>	<u>7,054</u>

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Designated Fund	15,000	-	-	-	-	15,000
General funds						
General Fund	16,989	79,862	(78,714)	-	-	18,137
Endowment funds						
Fatfield	31,911	533	-	(33,537)	1,093	-
Restricted funds						
Annexe	194,954	536,889	(1,270)	33,537	-	764,110
Warm Spaces	6,949	10,105	(8,432)	-	-	8,622
	201,903	546,994	(9,702)	33,537	-	772,732
Total of funds	265,803	627,389	(88,416)	-	1,093	805,869

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Designated Fund	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
General funds					
General Fund	18,941	75,848	(77,800)	-	16,989
Total Unrestricted funds	33,941	75,848	(77,800)	-	31,989
Endowment funds					
Fatfield	33,290	671	-	(2,050)	31,911
	<i>Balance at 1 January 2022 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses) £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 December 2022 £</i>
Restricted funds					
Annexe	145,226	49,734	(6)	-	194,954
Warm Spaces	-	10,711	(3,762)	-	6,949
	145,226	60,445	(3,768)	-	201,903
Total of funds	212,457	136,964	(81,568)	(2,050)	265,803

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

The designated fund was allocated at the discretion of the Trustees to set aside funds for any shortfall in funding the new building.

The endowment fund is the Fatfield 7/1 Church Hall Trust Fund. It was held in investment and deposit funds by the Durham Diocesan Board of Finance as Custodian Trustee but was closed during the year following approval of the Board and the monies transferred to the PCC to use for the annexe building project. The fund arose from the sale of church assets and was held for ecclesiastical purposes.

The restricted funds comprise the following:

Annexe Fund - for the building of a church annexe for use by the community and for church activities.

Warm Spaces - donations and grants received for the provision of warm spaces in the winter for the benefit of the community.

13. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	333,961	333,961
Current assets	39,295	507,071	546,366
Creditors due within one year	(6,158)	(68,300)	(74,458)
Total	33,137	772,732	805,869

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Endowment funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	21,519	-	21,519
Fixed asset investments	-	-	31,911	31,911
Current assets	34,256	185,171	-	219,427
Creditors due within one year	(2,267)	(4,787)	-	(7,054)
Total	31,989	201,903	31,911	265,803

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

14. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	<i>2022</i> £
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	540,066	53,346
Adjustments for:		
(Gains) losses on investments	(1,093)	2,050
Dividends and interest received	(6,070)	(1,418)
Decrease (increase) in debtors	(2,605)	(1,295)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	67,404	7,054
Net cash provided by operating activities	597,702	59,737

15. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	<i>2022</i> £
Cash in hand	542,466	218,132
Total cash and cash equivalents	542,466	218,132

16. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 January 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	218,132	324,334	542,466
	218,132	324,334	542,466

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

17. Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	679,105	846,916

The capital commitments contracted but not provided for are for the church annexe, under construction at the year end.

At the year end, to help with building costs of the annexe, grants have been awarded but not yet received of £266,133.

Appendix 1 to the Report and Accounts of St George's Church Fatfield

Index

Page number

29	AGENDA
30	Vicar's Report,
32	Biddick Academy Ministry & Schools' Ministry
32	World Giving
33	Administrator's Report
33	Electoral Roll
34	Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick
35	Mothers' Union
35	Church Wardens' Report 2023-2024
36	Building Group
37	Washington Community Food Project
38	Meet & Eat
38	Coffee, Cake & Company
38	Safeguarding Report
39	Children's Christmas Gifts
39	Cleaning Team
40	Toddlers' Report
40	Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service
41	Youth Group
42	Minutes Of The APCM Meeting

Parishioner Meeting & APCM

Sunday 19th May 2024

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting on 9th May 2023
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on 9th May 2023
4. Matters arising
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)

Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)

Safeguarding

Deanery Synod report

Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.

7. Elections

PCC (4 persons for 3 years)

8. Appointment of External Examiner
9. Chairman's report.
10. Any other business – Church representation rules.

Vicar's Report

2023 has been a year of upheaval and progress, with no shortage of difficulties and interesting experiences. The world itself has continued to become more fractious and the fear of wider war has grown, not least with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza caused by Israel's extreme response to Hamas' slaughtering over 1000 Israeli civilians in a brutal attack. Russia continues to terrorise Ukraine and threaten NATO with Nuclear War. Propaganda and misinformation are so rife, they are succeeding in making it very hard to know what is true in global events any more. Climate change continues to become a bigger and bigger issue for nations, with extreme flooding events and fires in numerous places.

In all this uncertainty and fear, The Church has something of greater worth than Gold. Our message of faith and hope is one that should increasingly resonate in a broken world where everything else seem so transient and uncertain.

While our church plans for a Ukrainian lounge and safe space were never needed, as a family, our offer to host Ukrainians actually came to fruition. Katya and her 5 year old son, Roma, living with us in the vicarage through the year. It has been an interesting experience, difficult at times, but a great opportunity to show the love of Christ in practical action.

At Church, our activities and worship continued to flourish. I give thanks to God for everyone who serves and makes St George's such a Christ focussed, mission filled place. There is too much to mention here, but in this booklet everyone's hard work and generosity is evident.

Our schools' work blossomed and new contacts with Harry Watts Academy in Harraton were formed. Our youth work grew, our community outreach flourished and we built further relationships with the NHS liaison and SHARP, on top of WCFP, (food bank) and Active Families running a group each week. We continue to be a part of the local VCS and Sunderland Connect network (connecting churches across the city together).

It has been a year of both excitement and sadness. We have hosted over a dozen funerals, but this year we have lost three stalwart members of our church family. Liz, Kate and Ann are greatly missed by us all, but we know they are with the Lord in eternity. They had all become good personal friends over my 11 years here, and I certainly miss their wise counsel.

The most stressful and exciting part of 2023 was, without doubt, our annexe project. At the start of the year we were awaiting tender prices. We had raised a huge amount of money, far more than we had originally set out to raise, although we knew inflation was going to dramatically affect the prices. However, when the tenders came back in February, literally twice the price originally provided by the Quantity Surveyor, we were left in a quandary to know what to do. With almost £800,000 available to spend, surely we could build the heart of the project and set up the community café.

The professional team set out on a significant value engineering process to cut costs. We set out to find additional funding and between all of this and phasing the project, we were enabled to sign the main contract in July with works starting in late September, once the bat maternity season had ended and all planning conditions discharged.

Thanks to substantial awards from other sources, by the end of the year it looked like we might be able to complete the second phase as well. As at time of writing (April 2024), while budget is very tight, with the small loan from the diocese we need just a few thousand pounds more to ensure it is all built. Without a doubt, the building works have disrupted church life, but we kept everything going despite horrendous mud during the (very wet) ground works phase.

We are thankful to God for enabling this vision, one that begun right back in the 1970's, to now come to fruition. It is a miracle of the Lord that we have been provided with so much funding. Had we set out at the start knowing we would need a million pounds, I doubt any of us would have believed it possible, but every step of the way, the PCC has stepped out in faith and trusted that the Lord would provide – and He has. Praise be to God.

I believe he has honoured our faith and faithfulness to defending and proclaiming the full gospel of Christ. Looking forward we must ensure this new building continues to honour him through gospel ministry, serving the community and also looking after the planet better. I would love to see us further develop our ecological credentials and put PV panels on the church to cut our carbon footprint even more as we move into an efficient new building.

I want to finish by thanking God for all the volunteers, especially our church warden Chris and treasurer Doug, who have worked so hard to enable so much to take place this year past. Thank you for your support, advice and service.

Give thanks for:

- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of our ministries, mission and people.
- Our volunteers and teams who do so much to serve others and sacrifice time, effort and money to support Christ's church and his ministry here.
- That the community annexe is coming to fruition
- Finances and people's generosity
- Many answered prayers through the year, including church growth.
- God's sustaining strength through a stressful year.

Pray for:

- Our mission and evangelism through the year.
- That our community annexe would be completed on time and the planned community café ministry would become far more successful than any of us imagine.
- A second church warden to support Chris and the church and new Trustees as well as the raising up of young people to preach and lead worship.
- Ongoing church growth in number and in depth of faith.
- Volunteers to help in every area, and greater community links as volunteers come and support the community café.
- Nick to be sustained in leading our busy church and for him to remain healthy.
- That all of us would continue to fix our eyes on Jesus and live for Him.

Biddick Academy & School Ministry

During 2023, school assemblies were taken in two local primary schools and both schools brought pupils to the church for lessons on Baptisms, Weddings, Easter and the Christian Church. Christmas services were held for Fatfield Academy, Biddick Academy and Harry Watts Academy. We began to develop our relationship with the Harry Watts Academy that works with young people with ASD. Their young people regularly come to our coffee morning to help develop their skills in meeting and talking with other people. A weekly lunch club at Biddick Academy is run by our Vicar focusing on ecology from a Christian ethos.

Give thanks for:

- All our work with young people and staff at the four local schools we serve.
- Ongoing Assemblies, Christmas Services and work as a Governor/Trustee.
- Answered prayers for growth in Schools' ministry post COVID.
- Christian staff and pupils in our schools.

Pray for:

- That the lunchtime club would continue to develop and point young people to Christ even as we think about saving His planet.
- That relationships with schools would continue to develop and grow, especially with the community café and young people volunteering.
- The Christian faith to be seen as a good thing for young people and opportunities to share the gospel more widely with staff and students.
- Teachers, pupils and their families might come to salvation
- Ongoing good relationships and positive influence as an Academy Trustee.

World Giving

We give 10% of our freewill giving to support wider mission in the world, locally and internationally, supporting our three-year partners and to the charities put forward for one-year gifts. This year we were able to support:

- Rock of Ages Foundation
- Nightingales
- Durham Lesotho Link
- Books and Bread for Kenya
- Gypsy Ministry
- IMC
- Open Doors
- Christians Against Poverty (CAP)
- Samaritans Purse
- Daft as a Brush
- Great North Air Ambulance
- RNLI

We are so thankful that God has put us in a position here we could again support these organisations.

In Christ's Name, Doug Green – Treasurer

Administrator's Report

I have been in my role as parish administrator at St George's Church now for 5 years, it is a role which has brought me so much joy and yes it can be challenging at times but also very rewarding in so many ways.

Every day in the office can be very different, I deal with emails, telephone calls and visitors to the office.

We are also a foodbank outlet supporting our community I meet those in need of a food parcel and the collate the paperwork for the Washington Community Foodbank Project.

We have a wonderful pastoral team here at St George's which I am a member of also.

A large part of my role is to make sure everything is in place for baptisms and funerals and burials. I work closely with funeral directors and can at times be in contact with families at such a difficult time.

Another part of my role is dealing with headstone applications that come into the office then are sent on to the Durham Diocese for approval. Most of the applications are straight forward others may need a faculty which brings with it a lot of work.

One particular faculty was for a headstone for a young boy which was very challenging and very emotional to deal with. I worked closely with the family throughout the whole process which took 16 months before the headstone was finally approved and placed in our churchyard.

I am supported in my role by Nick, Chris, Doug and Joanne for which I am truly grateful.

I am so thankful to God for bringing me to St George's Church, and give thanks for our wonderful team of volunteers.

I pray for Nick and Lucy and all our church family.

I pray that as our community space is coming nearer to completion those who walk through our doors will come to know Jesus.

Lorraine Cook, Parish Administrator

Electoral Roll

The electoral roll has been updated and there are 117 names on the new roll (revised on the 13th April 2024).

One new name added during the year and following the posting of the public notices no

further names were added and no-one has requested to be removed.

Sadly 4 names have been removed: reason-deceased.

A copy of the new electoral roll is available in the church office.

Eve Winstanley - Electoral Roll Officer

Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick

Our Pastoral Team has settled into a regular routine where we now meet on the 3rd Wednesday every other month, meeting 6 times a year. We devised a plan of identifying church members and the wider community who may need our support. We use our meetings to feedback how our support is going and identify any further needs.

All of the pastoral team help in other rolls within the church, i.e., Cuppa, Cake, and Company, Toddlers, Bereavement Support Group and Ukulele music group.

We continue to provide Home Communion to those who are unable to get to church. We also have a strong relationship with St George's Care Home, where Pat continues to provide a service once a month at the home, as well as welcoming their residents to our 10pm service, our Monday and Friday Cuppa, Cake & Company mornings and any special services we hold.

During 2023 we organised bus day trips, using Lee's of Durham coaches. The 1st trip was to Holy Island, followed by a further 2 trips, to Heartbeat Country – "Goathland & Whitby", and Castle Howard for their Christmas display. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed them. Now in planning for 2024.

Bereavement Support Group - The warm space grant was greatly appreciated in 2023 as it meant our Bereavement Support Group was able to continue meeting in church. We are a small group but each one of us finds great support in our meetings, welcoming new people who come to join.

Prayers for the Sick - is prayer ministry that has been running for over 40 years. We are a small dedicated group who pray individually each day for many people, covering all kinds of illnesses and situations. We come together once a month to pray collectively for each person who is in need of our prayers. This is such a lovely ministry, please continue to pass on people for us to pray for. You are also welcome to come and join us.

Memorial Service of Thanksgiving & St Luke's Day Service - Because of the changes to the church service times, it was decided to hold both The Memorial Service of Thanksgiving and the St Luke's Day Service of Healing at the 4pm services in the future.

The Memorial Service of Thanksgiving was held on the 14th May. During the service the names of loved ones are read out, many people said they felt it was such a moving and meaningful service.

St Luke's Day Service of Healing was held on the 15th October. During the service people are invited to be blessed and anointed. Again, this service was greatly appreciated, reflecting on many types of healing.

Mothers' Union

We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 1:15 pm. Our membership here at St George's is down to 6. We try to do our bit promoting MU values, especially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

We support AFIA — 'Away From It All' holidays for families going through difficult times and toilet bags for emergency admissions to hospitals.

We hold a short service every month here at St George's.

We give thanks for:

- The past and present women who have made Mothers' Union a presence in St George's Church

We pray for:

- More members to come forward to swell our branch.

Brenda Ridley (secretary)

Church Wardens' Report 2023-2024

It seems hard to hard to believe, but March 23rd marked the fourth anniversary of the first covid lockdown. Whist we are living in a weird world – I doubt if it will ever be the same again! Praise God, as a Church, we are continuing to serve Him and our community. This, of course, is due to the leadership Nick brings to us, and the willingness of the splendid family who worship at St. George's Church. The outreach ministry to our local community has continued. On Monday and Friday mornings, we have coffee/tea and cake groups, which are well attended. There is also Wednesday lunches or snacks, the Tuesday morning Toddler Group, afternoon Ukulele Group, and the Monday afternoon Bereavement Support Group, bringing in regular members. All of these are able to continue thanks to a dedicated number of volunteers.

Currently a keep fit class run by Sunderland council gathers on Thursday mornings. Roughly sixty percent of the people who attend belong to the Church family, but it also brings in a regular number of local people. So, as well as maintaining the health of some of the congregation (myself included) it too is a source of outreach. The Church itself is adequate for this group, but it is not ideal, and everyone is looking forward to having more space once the annexe is completed and formally opened.

Speaking of the annexe - God is so amazing. In spite of the ghastly weather, building work has continued. Amid the clutter of cabins, machinery, and men bustling around wearing

hard hats, it has been a source of joy to survey the new building steadily taking shape, and a good rapport has been forged with the workmen. Somehow, up to the time of writing, the ministry of the Church has mostly continued as usual, although changes have had to be made regarding the Wednesday luncheon group as currently we no longer have a kitchen. But that shall be rectified once the annexe with its bright new kitchen is completed.

During the past twelve months, the services have continued much the same as they always did. The 8am service is held monthly, and consists of a small but devoted group, faithfully supported by Robert Purvis. The 10am and 4pm services are well attended, and praise God, we also have welcomed new people too. As Warden I have much to thank God and the congregation at St. George's for. I am well supported, and cannot adequately thank everyone for their kindness and generosity. We have a marvellous Christian fellowship – the congregation at St. George's are truly wonderful people, and I am grateful to all of you. Also, as warden, I praise God for the helpfulness and support of Eileen Fletcher and Terry Wyatt. As a congregation, admittedly we're far from perfect, but we can – and do – pull together, recognizing that only one person is in charge, and that is God Himself.

There are a number of points for prayer and praise:

Thanks be to God for Nick's faith and dedication. May he and Lucy be blessed in their work.

We shall need a manager/manageress for the annexe, and we pray that God will send the appropriate person to fulfil this role. We also need to commit to prayer the need for more volunteers, to make this outreach venture possible.

For our local community – praise God that we have strong local support.

Praise God that the ministry and outreach of this Church is continuing, including the groups mentioned above. We ask for His blessing upon those who faithfully give their time. May this work continue.

We thank God for the dedication of Maurice Taylor, who has served as a Lay Reader for many years - he has now decided to retire, but intends to remain faithful and obedient to the voice of God. We pray that God's hand shall be upon him and his wife, Elizabeth, and wait and see what purpose God has now in his life.

May God bless us in our work, and guide us as our fellowship and outreach continue through the coming year. As the letter to Galatians (6 v9) instructs us – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Chris Hope

Building Group

2023 was a year of two parts, the earlier part of the year, was normal with the building group doing small jobs in and around the church, with the latter part, from mid-September, being the start of the Annexe Project, which has provided new challenges.

We give thanks for:

- The volunteers who worked in the graveyard, in particular Roger Thornhill, Brian Pritchard, Nigel Heppell and others who kept the graveyard looking so neat and tidy during 2023.
- There was also a Spring clean and tidy up day in March, again thanks to the volunteers who helped
- The skills of the volunteers who managed to complete many tasks, some large and some small eg replacement of central heating thermostats and subsequent adjustments, replacement of lights, locks changed, the movement of the porch storage units into the main worship area, which enabled the coffee mornings, etc. to continue into 2024, etc.

Please pray for:

- The group members in their involvement with the management group for the Annexe building project, enable them to use their experience and knowledge of the church to work effectively alongside the builders.
- The health of the group, most of whom, are over 70.
- More volunteers to join the group to help with the existing regular tasks and also with new tasks, which the annexe is sure to produce!

St. George's Building Group

Washington Community Food Project

Working With St. George's Church

We have had another busy year at WCFP. However, thanks to the continued support from the extremely generous residents of Washington, Springwell Village and local businesses, with both monetary and food donations, we have been able to continue to meet the need for food parcels.

This generosity also enabled us to continue our tradition of 'The Christmas Giveaway', where donated toys, presents, Christmas goodies and gift vouchers were given to families.

We manned a fundraising stall at a wet Washington Carnival in the summer and at the Christmas Fayre in The Village.

We would like to thank students and staff of Sunderland University who installed a new computer system which makes the referral process and reporting so much easier and efficient.

It would be wonderful if our services at WCFP were no longer needed and we can only hope that one day this could be the case.

Susan Laws, Chair of WCFP

Meet and Eat

Meet and Eat has continued to offer a homemade meal twice a month (either a 2-course meal or a light lunch) to both the church family and the wider community.

We have been blessed to have a rota of volunteers who cook and help share the load.

On average about 15 people have come to Meet and Eat, however, at date of writing (2024), due to the current building works, we have now temporarily had to stop. When complete, we pray that people will come to the new community cafe and continue to be part of the church.

Keira Batchelor

Coffee, Cake and Company

The 'coffee' mornings have been running for 3 years (starting in April 2021) and continue to flourish. We attract 30 to over 50 visitors. Together with our link to St. George's Nursing Home we have regular visits from the carers, residents and relatives plus some of the staff and pupils at Harry Watts Academy in Harraton.

Cakes and scones are either homemade or donated from surplus stock from businesses (eg WCFP). Monetary donations help towards the purchase of tea, coffee and the running costs, with the main focus on fellowship and community.

The new annexe work including a café started at the end of 2023 (challenging times ahead) and on completion mid 2024 will aid our outreach ministry in the community and beyond.

We give thanks for:

- The volunteers who give their time using their gifts on a Monday and Friday
- The people from the community who come to CCC
- The warm safe space to meet

We pray for:

- Continued faith and strength for the volunteers, that they know how much they are appreciated
- More volunteers to help spread the work load
- We will be running our community café and more in the annexe building.

Gail Watson and the CCC Teams

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and we have the relevant policies in place, which are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

We give thanks for:

- No issues regarding Safeguarding
- St George's being a safe place for those that seek peace.
- The appointment of Leslie Stevens as deputy designated safeguarding officer.
- PCC members who have undertaken safeguarding training and accreditation.
- Access to the Safeguarding hub provided by the Diocese.

We pray for:

- The Diocesan Safeguarding team – who continue to support us.
- Continues vigilance by the St George's community in being aware of safeguarding issues.

Doug Green

Children's Christmas Gift-Giving

This year, children attending the Christmas Eve Craft Cafe were invited to delve deep into a decorated basket or make-shift bran tub - each one crammed with tinsel, shredded paper and individually wrapped gifts. Whilst the very youngest received a soft toy, more than 50 children aged 2-11 took away an age-appropriate gift and a Christmas story book. There were plenty of additional goodies to give away, and for an extra treat, they could also guess the identity of six Christmas-themed items hidden inside six dangling socks!

- Praise God for our church family who generously donated over 20 brand new bran tub gifts
- Praise God we were able to welcome so many children - some for the very first time
- Pray the newly built annexe will enable us to expand our children's ministry

Andrea Pritchard

Cleaning Team

The Cleaning Team meets after Coffee Mornings on Fridays approximately 11:30 am and consists of Len and Betty, Avril, Brenda and Arthur, and when time allows Donna and Oona.

During building work it is difficult to keep dust at bay, but we Hoover, clean toilets, brasses and generally make church tidy for services and Coffee Mornings. To do this we appeal for anyone with time and energy to join us for a couple of hours. Your help would be appreciated.

We give thanks for:

- We are thankful to God that we are able and willing to serve Him.

We pray for:

- We pray that more labourers come forward as the new building nears completion and will require a larger cleaning team.

From the Team.

Toddlers

The Church Toddler Group continues to run in the church with the team setting up and trying to ensure the engagement and safety of all who we welcome into church.

It has been a challenging year with only four of us operating the group (this isn't counting the two gentlemen who come along each week to help get out and put away the toys). We sadly lost Ann Moss last year. Her family bought the Toddlers a beautiful children's kitchen – 'Auntie Ann's Kitchen' which the children love. We still miss her company and ideas of what we can do to engage the children and the support she gave to the adults who attend.

The group is well attended and the children, parents and grandparents who come appreciate all that we do. We currently have 20+ children on our list but are always ready to welcome others.

We look forward to moving into the new building where we can store our toys safely and look forward to the opportunities this move will give us to enhance our service to the community and build upon what we already offer.

We give thanks for:

- Our volunteers who give up their time so readily to serve the community.
- The opportunities this ministry gives us to bring people/children to church.
- The blessings we receive in serving God in this way.

We pray for:

- Each person who comes through the church doors each Tuesday morning
- The many opportunities the new building will provide.
- The volunteers, that their commitment and strength to serve in this way is maintained and indeed that others offer to join us.

God Bless St George's Church Family who serves this community so well.

Lynn Green

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

Lucy and I continue to lead the two small groups of children who attend the service each Sunday morning. Although we give thanks for the support and prayers of Nick and the church family, we continue to pray for others to come along and support the children as they explore their own understanding of the Bible and their own growing faith.

The children of our church are a blessing, and they will one day be at the centre of our church congregation. They already both challenge and cause Lucy and I to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and how we can keep our hearts and eyes focused on Him – think what they can do for you!

We currently are using the floor at the top of the building but hope to use the new building in the not-so-distant future.

We give thanks for:

- The children who regularly attend the groups, their questions and growing faith
- The many blessings children's ministry brings.
- The parents/grandparents and other adults who bring children to church where they can meet with Jesus.

We pray for:

- The many opportunities the new building will provide.
- More volunteers to join Lucy and I, in supporting the children coming to faith.
- The children who come to St George's – that they will carry the message of Jesus into all aspects of their lives.

Lynn Green

Youth Group

Lucy and Nick run the weekly youth group that has grown to 12 members aged 11-18. We also join with other youth groups at diocesan events in the Cathedral and put on our own occasional activities.

Give thanks for:

- Regular group of young people who seem to enjoy looking at God's word and sharing time together.
- The new people who have joined the group.
- Growth in faith and life in young people

Pray for:

- Continued growth in number and depth of faith and understanding
- Leaders to start a youth band
- New opportunities to be taken as the annexe opens
- Those young people who struggle at school and in life.
- Growth in hearts to serve amongst our young people.

Minutes of the Annual Report to Parishioners Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 19.30 pm

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS (formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer & Worship

NBH opened by welcoming all attending to the meeting & read a passage from Luke 5, which was a passage set for this evening's Evening Prayer, & he thought it particularly apt telling us that church should remain rooted in the Gospel NBH asked that 2 or 3 people prayed for our meetings & the decisions to be taken. He also asked that we prayed for Chris Hope our church warden in particular. Prayers were offered that we raise up & build our church, & blessings for CH.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Commenting that he hoped all there had received the minutes from the last meeting & that he did not intend to go through the whole report, only taking the meeting through any essential business, NBH asked if there were any queries about the minutes from last year. There was nothing raised, & the 2022 minutes were accepted as correct, this being proposed by CH & seconded by GW, with 16 votes for & 2 Abstentions.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Wardens

NBH offered huge thanks to CH, especially for her friendship as well as advice, commenting that he knew how hard she was working & thanked those supporting her. He believes it is wonderful that people step forward to serve with her. As no-one else was standing, CH was appointed as Church Warden with no need for an election. PM prayed for her.

The meeting closed at 19.45 p.m.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Opening Prayer

NBH opened the new meeting in prayer, asking that we would be guided through the business.

2. Apologies

NBH read the apologies which had been received from:- Betty Adams, Elspeth Baird, Andrew Batchelor, Keira Batchelor, Margaret Bianchi, Rob Bianchi, Ken Brown, Jo-Anne Cohrs, Pat Davis, Mary Gorog, Lynn Green, Davy Ford, Maureen Nevitt, Audrey Rayner, Arthur Ridley, Brenda Ridley, Lynne Sadler, Brian Tait, Catherine Tait, John Thomas, Trish Thomas, Avril Winship, Lynn Wyatt & Terry Wyatt.

Attendees at meeting were:- Len Adams (LA), Lucy Barr-Hamilton (LBH), Nick Barr-Hamilton (NBH), Harry Ellis (HE), Tarahneh Etemadi (TE), Eileen Fletcher (EF), Ruth Forster (RF), Doug Green (DG), Christine Hope (CH), Jenny Hughes (JH), Lucille Hutchinson (LH), Heather Livingstone (HL), Pat Matthews (PM), Andrea Pritchard (AP), Leslie Stevens (LS), Maurice Taylor (MT), Gail Watson (GW) & Peter Watson (PW).

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting on 10th May 2022

The minutes of the 2022 meeting had been published and were accepted as correct; proposed by EF, seconded by GW with 16 votes for & 2 abstentions.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

EW, our Electoral Roll Officer, commented on the details given to her by Lorraine Cook, our Administrator, advising that a copy of the Roll is available in the Office. We now have 120 names on the Electoral Roll, having lost 2 because of deaths, with 2 new names added. There were no questions for EW.

6. Presentation of Reports (as circulated previously)

NBH reminded the meeting that as these had been circulated previously, he did not intend to talk to each one as he hoped that everyone had had the opportunity to read through these but asked if people wanted to comment further on their reports. He remarked that it was a wonderful privilege to serve in the church where so many people give & are doing so much. Following Covid we have continued our important outreach into the community, which he felt was testament to the Gospel being lived out.

- Wardens 'Report: CH thanked everyone, especially EF for their support as the past year had been an especially tricky one for her. CH felt that of all the things we have got right in church one of the things stood out to her was Prayer Ministry. There were no questions of CH.
- Safeguarding: NBH said that we have had no issues to report on, but spoke about Kate Grimwood, who was our former Safeguarding Officer and had so recently passed away after moving to be closer to her family. He gave thanks for her wonderful ministry & life. He advised that recently DG had been supporting Kate & had now agreed to take on the role, with LS having been requested & agreed to become his deputy.
- Deanery Synod: NBH advised that we have had no represents for Deanery Synod, but as far as he was aware little had happened. He remarked that there had been a lot of change within the clergy, & at Deanery Chapter recently he had realised that of all the clergy who were here when he started at St George's nearly 11 years ago, only one remains. It was striking to realise he was the second longest serving vicar in the Deanery.
- Treasurer's Report: NBH asked DG if there was anything he wished to add to the Report in the Booklet. DG commented that of most things he was very impressed that our deficit was only £954 over the year. He talked about the grants we have received specifically for 'warm space' from Sunderland Council, Durham Diocese, & one from the Coalfields Trust. He told us that we have received a further substantial grant already this year. He also mentioned about how much the heating bills have gone up in 2023, a figure which of course is not included in this budget, but a bill of over £3,500 earlier this year was covered by monies received through the grants, but he wanted to highlight to people that this indicates the

heating & lighting bills could be three times last years budgeted figure. He also commented that we should praise God for the grants we have been given. There were no questions of DG from the meeting. NBH thanked DG for his work through the year & Lynn Wyatt (LW) for supporting him. LW intends to step back from this so she can spend more time in her worshipping & less time 'doing'. NBH commented that LW had been a real blessing to us all, especially with all the work she has done in reclaiming our Gift Aid. He asked for the meeting to give prayer & thanks to God for DG & LW & of course the generous sacrificial giving from all which has supported our mission financially for us to keep going. A few members prayed, giving thanks to God. DG mentioned in closing that it was wonderful that we had been able to pay our Parish Share again this year & we should give thanks that we had achieved this. NBH asked for a proposal that the 2022 Church Accounts were accepted which was made by AP, seconded by EF & carried unanimously.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years)

NBH thanked those who have stood as PCC members for the last year. RF continues to remain in role as a non-elected officer and 2 proposals had been received for Anna Snell, proposed by PM, seconded by RF & Ross Kendall, proposed by LBH, seconded by LH respectively. NBH reminded people that proposals could be accepted from the floor, although no-one volunteered & both proposals were carried unanimously. LS & AP have agreed to continue to serve & will be co-opted back on at the next PCC meeting. There are 3 outstanding places to be filled. LBH was also proposed to stand & serve as one of 3 Deanery Synod representatives by Maureen Nevitt, seconded by Lynn Green which was also carried unanimously. Thanking those that had stood this year NBH reminded PCC members that as the church is now a Registered Charity they are classed as Trustees. Prayer was offered for the new PCC & Trustees.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

NBH thanked Charlie Forster (CF) for his work this year; he knew he had also been offering support to DG, & told us he had sent him an official letter and a gift, confirmed by RF. Whilst CF had indicated he was happy to continue to serve in this capacity, NBH advised the meeting that if income continues to increase due to the Annexe proposals & work goes ahead this coming year, our income will rise above £250,000. CF will be unable to examine the accounts as they would need to be examined in accordance with Charity Commission rules by a professional accountant so we would have to seek a new independent examiner. It may mean we would have to pay someone, & he is discussing with the Diocese the way forward. NBH advised that income would need to be above £1M before we would require a full audit. He also mentioned the intention of church to purchase some software which would enable the accounting procedures to be done in a different way as income & expenditure becomes more complex. DG remarked that it would become challenging, but NBH said he would ensure that DG got all the support he needed.

9. Chairman's Report

NBH commented that again he hoped people had had the opportunity to read his comments in the Report booklet & did not have much to add but mentioned that the family felt privileged last year to have their sabbatical & felt blessed by it & continue to be blessed from it. Coming back, he felt it had been non-stop since Christmas. The Annexe Project was progressing, in 2 or 3 weeks he had hoped to share good news, but one process was taking longer than he had hoped. He is thankful to

God for so many people that serve within this church & feels blessed with serving people who do so much. NBH mentioned the physiotherapy he has been receiving over the last few months which he is finding beneficial, as he has realised the impact that getting Covid, getting older & spending 32 years in a wheelchair has had on his body. He spoke of the uncertainty in life that people are experiencing & believes that what we need is to see the church as a source of hope for each other. He is incredibly grateful to the Pastoral Team as he cannot deal with it all by himself & is thankful for all that goes on behind the scenes. NBH opened the floor for any questions, although there were none. He commented that he had wondered whether it may be an idea to hold the Annual Meeting after Sunday worship, as other churches are doing, & making it a part of Sunday worship to encourage more people to come & be better representative of all congregations & the church family. There was general agreement with the idea. PM thanked the Barr-Hamilton family for all that they did & their hard work for the church.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business & NBH thanked all who were in attendance for coming. The meeting closed with prayer committing everything discussed into His hands, & the Grace was said at 20.18 pm.

Accounts



**ST GEORGE
FATFIELD**



ANNUAL REPORT BOOK 2022

**Published for the
Annual Parochial Meeting
On 9th May 2023**

Parishioner Meeting & APCM Index

page number

3	AGENDA
4 - 9	APCM Trustees Annual Report
10-15	Vicar's Report, Biddick Academy Ministry & Schools' Ministry
15-16	Church Finance Statement For 2022 & World Giving
17-18	Church Wardens Report
19	Warm Space
20-21	Safeguarding, Meet&Eat, Cuppa Cake n Company
22-23	WCFP, Administrators Report
24	Mothers Union & Cleaning Team
25	Youth Group Report
26	Building Group
27-28	Annual Church Report For Toddlers
29-30	Children's Group Sunday 10am Service
30-31	Christmas Gift Bags
32-33	Service of Prayer for the Sick & Pastoral Team
33	Electoral Roll
34-38	2022 Income & Expenditure Accounts
39-45	Minutes of the APCM 2022

**Parishioner Meeting & APCM
Tuesday 9th May 2023**

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on 10th May 2022
4. Matters arising
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)
 - Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)
 - Safeguarding
 - Deanery Synod report
 - Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.
7. Elections
 - PCC (4 persons for 3 years)
8. Appointment of External Examiner
9. Chairman's report.
10. Any other business

APCM Trustees Annual Report

2022 Report & Accounts for the PCC at St George's Church, Fatfield

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of, co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton, promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in his church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including safeguarding, data protection, health and safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support the incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
- provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) community drop in coffee mornings, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth club, a

warm space initiative and a number of other community groups.

- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and there is a vision to extend the church building to better enable us to achieve this given the limitations of the existing building and its facilities.

Achievements and Performance

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports throughout normal times, along with the way it supported the local community through the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community, including a Jubilee celebration cream tea, an Autumn Faire and a Christmas craft cafe

In addition to our regular services and groups, we normally conduct numerous baptisms and occasional weddings, as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service.

Our Easter and Christmas services were much more normal in 2022, but there remain some changes that will probably be permanent. The church continued to hold many funerals and burials in 2022 and the churchyard now only has a few new plots remaining.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision. Through the autumn and winter, the church functioned as a warm space several days a week supporting dozens of people with a warm place to meet and socialise. We are grateful for support from Sunderland Council and The Coalfields Trust to support this initiative.

Financial Review

The Financial review produced by our treasurer and independently examined is available later in this financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

Reserves Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover 3 months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th 2018.

Plans for future period

Our separate vision document contains plans for where we feel God calling us, but 2023 will see us continue to take the church forward in a very changed world. With heating costs substantially increased, efforts will continue to be made to seek continued funding for our warm space initiative and keep fuel costs down. The reality is that it is difficult to heat our big old Victorian church building, but investigations will be made regarding insulation possibilities. The new community annexe and café designs, which were granted planning permission and faculty in 2021 has gone out for tender. At time of writing we have over 80% of the full cost in place and expect to enter a period of value engineering with the successful contractor to ensure we can deliver the bulk of the project within the current budget available.

This new annexe, if it is built, will better enable the Aims and Purpose of the church and its need has been made much more apparent through the COVID crisis. The annexe will also help us reduce our carbon footprint and provide a modern efficient space that is easy to heat. We will need to think more about our ecological credentials in 2023. Inflation remains the biggest risk to

the new annexe project, but a phasing of the project may ensure best value for money in a very difficult period for the construction industry.

With all this work potentially going on later in 2023, we must also keep focussed on the primary objectives of the church that this new annexe would enable.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes, the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and APA's, any members of CofE Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the APCM and those co-opted by the PCC.

The Full PCC (trustees) meets 9 times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting. the PCC.

The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, Whistle Blowing, Anti-fraud, Domestic Abuse, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. Over 50 people are involved in volunteering at St George's. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them all by name, but you work in service of Christ and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

Administrative information

St George's Church is found at Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington NE38 9AH. It is an Anglican Church of England church within the diocese of Durham. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

PCC members who have served from the APCM of 2022 (10th May 2022) are:

Ex Officio members:

- Incumbent: The Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (Chair)
 - Wardens: Mrs Christine Hope
 - Readers: Mr Maurice Taylor & Mrs Pat Matthews
 - APA: Mrs Eve Winstanley
- Deanery Synod: None.

Elected Members

- Mr Len Adams
- Ms Jo-Anne Cohrs

- Ms Tara Etemadi
- Mr Doug Green (Treasurer)
- Mrs Lucille Hutchinson
- Mrs Andrea Pritchard
- Mrs Leslie Stevens
- Mrs Gail Watson
- Mr Peter Watson
- Mrs Lynn Wyatt

Mrs Ruth Forster serves as the PCC Secretary.

Mrs Kate Grimwood served as the elected Safeguarding officer through 2022 with Mr Doug Green as the deputy safeguarding officer. Sadly, Kate passed away after a short battle with cancer early in 2023. Mr Doug Green has agreed to take over as lead with Mrs Leslie Stevens serving as deputy.

The PCC of St George's have adopted and pay due regard to safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the porch notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

The Independent Examiner appointed at the APCM of 2022 is Mr Charlie Forster.

The day to day management of church activities is delegated to the Incumbent and the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook, who we thank for her diligent and effective work in keeping the organisation of everything running smoothly. Accounts approved by the PCC on 4th April 2023 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (PCC Chair).

They have been independently examined and signed off by Mr Charlie Forster.

Vicar's report

2022 has been another turbulent year across the globe, but we have seen the Lord continue to work in and through us in our community. The year began with COVID fears starting to wane. But with one global challenge ending, another arose. Russian threats to Ukraine were realised by the largest invasion in Europe since world war II. Inflation, that had already picked up post COVID suddenly leapt as energy prices went through the roof and those without fixed price contracts found themselves paying 4 or 5 times more for energy than they were in 2021.

The church, however, continued to serve and support our community and many ministries returned to a more normal pattern after 2 years of disruption, although we still struggle to find volunteers to work with young people. Our community coffee mornings continued to work with WCFP and went from strength to strength, some days seeing nearly 60 visitors and I cannot thank our volunteers enough for the work they put in to make these so popular. We could always do we some extra help if you are free on Friday mornings in particular.

With the war raging against Ukraine causing the largest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII and with close links to a project in Moldova, the church geared up and expected to host a number of Ukrainian families. The plan was to use our middle floor room and facilities as a lounge and safe space for Ukrainians hosted by local people and church members, but over time it became apparent that most Ukrainians preferred to stay closer to home than come to the UK.

Our Easter celebrations were much more normal this year and our Good Friday activity morning was incredibly busy, with around 60 young people and their families enjoying an Easter hunt, games and activities.

Our summer food and activity week, however, was not as well attended this year, but we did make a new partnership with Active Families North-East who ran some of the sports while our volunteers cooked lunches and ran other activities for young people.

In the Autumn, having postponed my Sabbatical for two years running due to COVID, I was finally able to take it. I do want to thank Rob & Margaret Bianchi, Doug & Lynn Green and Maurice Taylor, who took on much of the responsibility of the church while I was away on my three month Sabbatical. They already do so much to support me and the church in normal times. In particular, I thank Chris Hope who always carries substantial responsibility for the church and serves above and beyond as our only (currently) church warden and chaired the PCC in my absence. It was a wonderful time of rest as well as time spent studying and visiting places that engage in sustainable farming and ecology. I came back thoroughly challenged about how we really need to help people live sustainably in an affordable way (which is not easy) and look after God's creation better. The one phrase that arose again and again is that we are a community of creation with all God's creatures.

St George's was also awarded several warm space grants enabling us to run the church as a warm safe space through the autumn and winter. We thank God for the Coalfields regeneration Trust and Sunderland City Council for their generosity in this. These have again widened our community links and partnerships with other local VCS organisations.

During the year, one of our long serving APA's, Mrs Pat Davis retired from her formal role. I thank her personally and on behalf of the church and community for her friendship and many years of faithful service as an APA and her continuing ministry with people in the church.

Schools work also returned to a more normal pattern as I began visiting Fatfield Primary each month, Rickleton Primary occasionally and we restarted the lunchtime club in Biddick Academy.

This year, Christmas returned to its usual pattern and felt quite busy, although the Christingle was renamed as a Family Christmas Celebration. The cost of living crisis did have one impact though in that Biddick Academy was unable to hire coaches to bring the young people to their carol services, so we recorded the service in church with their music group, choir and readers and streamed it back to the school.

At the end of the year we sadly said goodbye to our dear friend and sister Kate who moved to Devon to live with her family, knowing she would be unlikely to return.

Through the year, our Community Annexe project continued to progress. We were now in a fundraising mode, looking to raise just under £680,000. Following the humbling generosity of our church family in 2021, we were now going out to numerous grant awarding bodies seeking to raise the rest. I would like to thank Anna Snell for using the gifts God has given her in doing much of this work. By the time I got back from Sabbatical we were progressing at a good pace, although with inflation in the construction industry running a mock we had had to add 23% to the original price provided by the Quantity Surveyor.

We thank God for his generous provision as well as the many people who believe in this project, both inside and outside of St George's. God certainly likes to surprise us with his goodness. Quite suddenly, in the last 6 weeks of the year we were awarded 3 substantial grants that brought us close to the inflation affected target. All of a sudden our professional team had to move from working on the project steadily to getting a full tender pack together to go out before Christmas. It was a huge amount of work for everyone involved, but with much prayer it was achieved. By God's grace we will start construction work in 2023. But we remained concerned about the level of inflation impacting building materials and labour shortages.

I want to finish by thanking God for all the volunteers who have worked so hard to enable so much to take place this year gone. Our building has remained a hub of activity, at times so busy we have struggled to find times to hold funerals. Again and again we see the need for additional inclusive space and proper facilities/kitchen. In all you do for this community and each other, you show that you are faithful Christians who love and serve in a sacrificial Christlike way and follow Christ's call no matter what the world throws at us.

I also thank God for the generosity of so many people, who enable us to pay fixed costs for the ministry we have done to serve young people, families and elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

I thank our Readers and Pastoral team who take on much of the personal work. There are too many others to thank by name, but I am humbled by all your sacrifice and give thanks to God for you and all you do, from cleaning, maintenance and administration, to music, worship and outreach. I am also grateful to Doug, our Treasurer, and Lynn Wyatt who ably supports him. Finally, I want to thank our administrator, Lorraine, who does an amazing job in the office and continually goes above and beyond.

Thank You All.

We press on into 2023 with hopes and fears, but we do so knowing that we have a sovereign God who can do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine. We continue to serve people in need in many different ways, bringing the good news of Jesus in word and deed and look forward to what the Lord brings in the year to come.

Give thanks for:

The Lord Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of our ministries, mission and people.

Our volunteers and teams who do so much to serve others and sacrifice time, effort and money to support Christ's church and his ministry here.

The progress in the Community Annexe project.

Finances to enable us to do so much.

Many answered prayers through the year.

Growth in relationships and

Pray for:

- Our mission and evangelism through the year.
- That our community annexe project would come to fruition despite inflation.
- A second church warden to support Chris and the church. New trustees to step up as others retire.
- Church growth in number and in depth of faith.
- Volunteers to help out where we are needing more help, in particular roles with young people and on Sundays.
- Nick to be sustained in leading our busy church and for him to remain healthy.

That all of us would continue to have our focus on Jesus and trust his sovereignty and faithfulness, no matter how difficult it becomes.

Biddick Academy & Schools' Ministry

Give thanks for:

- Restarting the Biddick Academy lunch club with a Christian ecological focus.
- Ongoing Assemblies, Christmas Services and work as a governor.
- Answered prayers.
- Christian staff and pupils in our school.

Pray for:

- That the lunchtime club would develop and point young people to Christ even as we think about saving His planet.
 - That assemblies would continue to build relationships and other opportunities in the school would develop.
 - The Christian faith to be seen as a good thing for young people and opportunities to share the gospel more widely with staff and students.
 - Teachers, pupils and their families might come to salvation
- Ongoing good relationships and positive influence as an Academy Trustee.

Church Finance Statement for 2022 & World Giving

2022 has been a very challenging year mainly due to the aftermath of the Covid Pandemic and the Cost of Living Crises, with the Church having to respond to a range of financial issues. However, it is important that we praise God that he has guided us throughout the year and helped to maintain all aspects of Church life and indeed supported us in establishing some new opportunities.

At the end of the year, we finished with a deficit of £954, (this does not include restricted money such as grants from Warm Space) Earlier in the year I was sure that there would be a deficit, mainly due to the different patterns of giving that developed over the previous year. The deficit is much smaller than I first thought, but the stalwart members of this church and faith in God proved me wrong. This year, giving was slightly up on the plate and some of the envelope giving was also up. We are thankful for grants from Sunderland Council, Durham Board of Finance and The Coalfields which has allowed us to develop our Warm Spaces Programme since September 2022. This has allowed many members of our community to participate in a range of activities within the church building

The financial breakdown for 2022 can be found on pages 34-38.....

Thank God for the many pledges, gifts, grants and donations that have come into the church throughout 2022 for the new build project. This is my second year as treasurer, and I would like to thank Lynn Wyatt for her continued support throughout the year. Lynn is still assisting in collating and banking money and continuing to work on Gift Aid. I pray God will continue to bless her as she also explores other activities. God has graciously blessed us in having Lynn available to support me.

World Giving

We gave 10% of our freewill giving to our three -year partners and to the charities put forward for one -year gifts. We were able to support Nightingales, Team for U, Connect, Biserica Crestina, Fundatia Stanca, Books & Bread For Kenya, Mission To Seafarers, Samaritan's Purse, Open Doors , ODM, Great North Air Ambulance, Daft As A Brush and Lesotho Link.

We are so thankful that God has put us in a position where we could again support these organisations.

Answers to prayer:

- For the faithfulness of God's people at St Georges in supporting the work in very difficult financial times.
- For the growing influence St Georges has had within the community over 2022
- For the award of a number of grants that has helped to develop our church as a community warm space

Items for Prayer:

- That people continue their giving to the church despite the 'cost of living crisis' that we are experiencing
- More grants and gifts towards the new build will continue to come into the church

in Christ's Name,
Doug Green - Treasurer

Wardens report 2022 -23

It's hard to believe but March '23 marked the third anniversary of the first covid lockdown. We are still living in a changed world, but praise God, as a Church, we have continued to serve Him and our community.

Over the past twelve months, the services have continued much the same as they always did. The 8am service is held monthly, and consists of a small but devoted group. The 10am and 4pm services are well attended, and most of the congregation have gradually returned to take part in the services, and praise God we also have new people too.

The outreach ministry to our local community continues. On Monday and Friday mornings we have coffee/tea and cake groups, which are well attended. There is also Wednesday lunches, the Tuesday morning Toddler Group, afternoon Ukulele Group, and the Monday afternoon Bereavement Support Group, bringing in regular members. All of these are able to continue thanks to a dedicated number of volunteers. Also, there is, currently, a Strength and Balance Class, run by Sunderland council, meeting on Thursday mornings. The majority of the people who attend belong to the Church family, but it does also bring in a number of local people; so as well as keeping the congregation physically fit, it too is a source of outreach!

As warden I have much to thank God and the congregation at St. George's for. I found last Summer to be challenging due to health problems. I was so well supported, I find I cannot name everyone personally. We have a marvelous Christian fellowship – the congregation at St. George's are truly wonderful people, and I am grateful to all of you. Also, as warden, I praise God for the support of Terry Wyatt, John Thomas, and Eileen Fletcher.

These lovely people literally took over warden duties, and delivered stern, regular pep talks to me, apropos of my needing to be obedient to my surgeon and oncologists' instructions. I've discovered It's a fact that gentle people can be scary sometimes.

I guess we can say 2022 was defined by Nick taking a well deserved 3 month sabbatical. I emphasize a sabbatical is certainly not to be confused with a holiday! During this time, along with many other churches, we did have a crisis – owing to the rapid escalation of fuel bills. Rob Bianchi, Doug our treasurer, and the building group, did sterling work regarding finding a means of being economical with our heating, and also by obtaining a Warm Spaces grant. We managed to weather the 3 months without any major mishaps, principally by everyone pulling together. As a congregation, admittedly we're far from perfect, but we worked together recognizing that only one person is in charge, and that it God Himself.

There are a number of points for prayer and praise.

- Thanks be to God for Nick's faith and dedication. May he and Lucy be blessed in their work.
- For our local community – praise God that we have strong local support. Praise God that the ministry and outreach of this Church is continuing, including the groups mentioned above. We ask for His blessing upon those who faithfully give their time. May this work continue, and more volunteers come forward.
- Pray that we can continue to heat the building, to offer a cozy environment for those who worship, and those who attend our outreach projects.
- May our fellowship and outreach continue through the coming year. As Martin Luther so aptly said, 'So highly privileged are we who believe in Christ. Amen.'

Warm Space

Since September 2022 as a Church, we have received grants that has enabled us to continue and develop a range of activities in supporting the local community. We are thankful for the support from:

Sunderland City Council
Diocesan of Durham Financial Board
Coalfields Regeneration Grant

Through a challenging period, we have been able to and continue to offer:

Monday	Cuppa, cake and company Bereavement support group
Tuesday.	Parents and Toddlers Ukulele Group
Wednesday	Bite to eat.
Thursday.	Active Families
Friday.	Cuppa, cake and company

This has seen over 200 community members on a weekly basis, taking part in our community programme.

Give thanks for:

The volunteers who give up their time to support these activities.
Those who provide food and drink.
The funding agencies for their continued support
Gods' blessing in allowing us to develop a wide -ranging programme.

Pray for:

The well-being of all who volunteers who support our programme.
For more volunteers to come forward to enable us to sustain and develop the programme
All community members who take part in the programme, that they continue to feel safe and warm but also may come to know Jesus as their Saviour.

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and we have the relevant policies in place, which are reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

We give thanks for:

- Our beloved deceased sister Kate Grimwood, who worked in various roles within the church over many years, including Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- No issues regarding Safeguarding
- St George's being a safe place for those that seek peace.
- PCC members who have undertaken safeguarding training and accreditation.

We pray for:

- The Diocesan Safeguarding team – who continue to support us.
- Continued vigilance by the St George's community in being aware of safeguarding issues.

Doug Green

Meet and Eat

Meat and Eat has continued to offer a meal twice a month in church. We are blessed to have a rota of volunteers to cook, to help share the load. We have about 15 - 20 guests each time. In October we had another visit from the food hygiene inspector and were very pleased to maintain our 5* hygiene rating. During the winter we opened every Wednesday as one of the warm spaces and offered a simpler lunch, continuing to have at least 15 - 20 guests, but have now returned to being twice a month. We pray that we reach more people in the local community and they will come to know Jesus.

Cuppa, cake and company (CCC)

Our twice weekly 'coffee' mornings have been running for 2 years now (starting in April 2021) and continue to flourish as we welcome both old and new guests. We have been attracting from about 30 to more than 50 people to each Monday and Friday event. Together with our close link to St. George's nursing home (providing easy access to visitors), we also have regular visits from the carers and residents at West Lodge Penshaw and some of the staff and pupils at Harry Watts Academy in Harraton.

The above visitors give rise to a varied age range with mixed abilities which as a church is a huge blessing to all involved especially as an outreach into the community. Most of the cakes and scones are either homemade or donated by church members with other donations coming from surplus stock from businesses (via Washington Community Food Project). This keeps some of the running costs down with any monetary donations being used to supplement other church costs (tea, coffee, etc).

We give thanks for:

- All the volunteers who give their time and use their gifts on a Monday and Friday
- The people from the community who come to support these mornings
- The warm safe space in which we meet

We pray

- Continued faith and strength for all our volunteers that they would know how much they are appreciated
- Expansion of committed volunteers to help spread the load of this work (especially on a Friday)
- By this time next year, we are running our community café CCC and more out of the new annexe building.
- Gail Watson and the CCC Teams

WCFP partnership with the St George's Church

Once again, our grateful thanks go to the people of St. George's Church for their continued help and support of Washington Community Food Project.

2022 was a demanding year for the charity. The Cost-of-living Crisis has resulted in the number of parcels we issue rising by over 55% compared to 2021. Our dedicated volunteers have had to work *extra* hard to ensure donations are collected, shelves are filled and food parcels are packed and handed to our clients. We have had to top up the stock donations we receive by purchasing a *considerable* amount of food, as well as toiletries and detergent. This would not be possible without the generous cash gifts we receive from supporters such as yourselves.

Your kind donations have also enabled us to expand the services we provide to include access to computer equipment as a free community Digital Hub, opening our doors three days a week as a Warm Space, supplying free packed lunches for children during the holidays and sponsoring Key Stage 2 fruit and After School Club snacks in local primary schools.

We continue our drive to combat food wastage by collecting surplus bread, cakes and fresh supplies and distributing it first to clients and then to local groups/institutions. We firmly believe in filling bellies not bins so it is wonderful to see perfectly good food that was destined to be thrown away being enjoyed by groups within our community.

The outlet at St. George's is a vital branch, providing that first point of contact to locals who may find accessing the service at our main

facility difficult or daunting. We cannot thank the volunteers at St. George's enough for their dedication in providing a warm first welcome to the WCFP and ensuring that no one leaves without the help they need.

With no sign of the current economic crisis abating, we anticipate that this next year will prove similarly challenging as the need for our service continues to increase and we see more and more local people experiencing 'in-work poverty'. We look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the people of St George's Church to ensure residents of Washington and Springwell Village receive the support they need during these difficult times.

Many thanks from all at the WCFP

Administrators Report

I am now in my fourth year as the administrator for St George's Church and I can truly say I absolutely love my role, it can be challenging at times, emotional, but it is also very rewarding. I am now part of the pastoral team which I feel is a huge part of my role here at St Georges.

I am so thankful to God who has put people in my path that lead me to St Georges.

I am thankful for all the support I receive in the office from Nick, Chris, Doug, Lynn and Joanne.

I am thankful for all the volunteers who help with activities at St George's.

I pray for Nick and Lucy and all our church family here at St Georges.

I pray that God will answer our prayers for the annexe to be built this year so we can continue His work throughout the community and people will come to know Him.

Mothers Union St Georges Fatfield

Our membership stands at 6 with 1 more lady expressing desire to join us.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1pm until 2.30 pm. We organise our meetings as a committee, not having a leader, sharing out tasks as a team.

We are missing 2 meetings April and May owing to bank holidays and meeting up again in June.

We will be presenting Long Service Awards to 5 members then.

We give thanks to our long serving members who have kept this branch going for so long.

We pray for the future of St George's Fatfield Mothers Union as times change and finding volunteers to take on positions becomes difficult

Cleaning Team

Cleaning team consists of 5 or 6 dedicated workers, Len & Betty Adams, Avril Winship, Brenda Ridley and Sharon Lamb and Donna our Romanian member of St George's who comes when she can.

We meet on Friday's at 1pm for a couple of hours and are always Grateful for any extra help. We give a special thankyou to Roger Thornhill for cleaning the chairs, and always be willing to lend a hand.

We give thanks for everyone who gives us their time and energy to do this important job.

We pray that we will all be blessed with good health and strength in the coming year.

Youth Group Report

At the time of writing the youth group has nine members aged between 11 and 15. Numbers aren't everything by any means, but we are so thankful that after the years of covid and so many parts of life taking a while to go back to normal, that we have such a wonderful regular group of people meeting for bible study and eating together around a table.

Some of us went for the first time to a Diocesan youth event in April which was a new experience for us, and was very encouraging to be among so many young Christians from the local area.

Please give thanks to God for bringing young people together around his Word and the shared experience of eating together.

Give thanks for those young people who gave their time and energy to serve on Maundy Thursday in the kitchen, and on Good Friday at the craft cafe.

Please pray that each of them would continue to be blessed by coming along, and would grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Please pray that the Lord would fan into flame the faith that is in them, preserve them in a hostile, post-Christian world, and give them hearts to love Him and love their neighbour as themselves.

Building Group

2022 was another year where we worked hard just to stay still. We were coming out of the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus and we used the time to catch up on necessary repairs and improvements.

New ceiling lights were purchased and fitted in the Served area. Likewise new lights at high level were installed in the side Chapel. The boilers in the main building and the upstairs rooms were serviced and found to be in good working order. A new thermostat was fitted in the church to allow more economical use of the heating system.

The lightning protection system was tested and found to be in good working order as were the fire extinguishers dotted around the building.

A thorough clean-up of the building internally was carried out in the Spring and Autumn working days. On the same days in March and November a working party restored the graveyard and other outside areas to their proper standard after the Winter and Summer periods.

The Building Group members who maintain the graveyard throughout the year, Peter Watson, Nigel Heppell and Keith Robson, once again did an admirable job. Our external areas are always in tip top condition. The Group was ably assisted by Norman Fatherley, John Adams, Roger Thornhill and Brian Pritchard and we thank them for their huge contributions.

Prayers of thanks for the appreciation shown by the congregation for our work, and prayers also for the time and effort put in by the Group members who made it possible.

Prayers of hope that there may be an interest shown by other members of the congregation in joining the Group to help us in our tasks. Please talk to Len Adams or Peter Watson if you can help.

Annual Church Report for Toddlers March 2023

The Church Toddler Group continues to meet downstairs in the church. Storing the toys and furniture downstairs has proven to be very beneficial for the quick setting up of the toys each Tuesday morning, ably assisted by Len and Doug.

The toddler group runs from September to July. We also are closed during any school holidays e.g., Easter.

We are now a team of six, Lucy has recently joined as a volunteer and each of us have a key role in ensuring the session runs effectively and provides the children who attend with opportunities to play safely and engage with other children, and the adults who come have chance to chat to each other and us. We try to make certain that we are available to provide help or a listening ear for anyone who needs it.

We currently have 24 children on our list to attend and have a waiting list because we are at capacity. The parents/grandparents and children who come all seem to enjoy their time with us and many people who contact us to put their name on the waiting list tell us they have heard positive comments and recommendations about this session. The cost of the session has increased to £2 to help support the increased cost of utilities. We have also had monetary donations from parents/grandparents at Christmas and when children have moved into nursery/school.

The children continue to enjoy the opportunity to play with the toys alongside their adult and the volunteers for the first part of the session, we stop around 10.15 for a story followed by juice and biscuits. The children can then play again or join in the craft activity we plan each week to link to the story we have shared. We finish the session with songs and finally our 'goodbye bubbles'.

We also celebrate special events during the year such as Christmas, Mother's Day and we always finish the year with a party – last July we enjoyed our 'Pirate's Party'. Children's birthdays are recognised and when the children finally leave us, we present them with a children's Bible – filled with all the stories we have shared with them. We hope this 'link' will bring them back to St George's Church – we do invite them to come along to any outreach events such as the Good Friday Crafts and we have been so happy to welcome them when they have come along with their grownups.

We thank God and feel blessed that we are able to introduce these 'tiny people' to Jesus and we hope and pray they will come to want to know more about him and St George's church. We pray that each of the volunteers will be blessed as they carry out God's work and that further people might join our group.

Finally, can I thank all who come along every Tuesday to serve our community in this way. We are a happy, friendly team who enjoy the company of each other and the children who attend.

Lynn Green

Children's Group Sunday 10 AM service

The weekly Sunday Children's Group continues to be led by Lucy and I each Sunday. The numbers of children remain consistent 6 younger children and 6 older children.

The groups are split into two small groups with Lucy leading the older group (Key Stage 2 +) and me leading the younger group. I continue to use the Click material with the younger children, this allows the children to explore a theme with linked Bible passages and we always include a creative activity before concluding our session with a prayer. The children take home the craft to support discussion with parents.

The older children explore Bible passages/themes with Lucy, seeking answers and asking challenging questions as they explore their own growing faith.

We always make time to discuss children's lives outside of church celebrating their successes and supporting them in coping with any challenges.

Lucy and I would love to see more people volunteering to share their faith and understanding of the Bible with our children, Lucy and I enjoy our time with the children but it is sometimes difficult to maintain and grow the children's church on our own.

When Lucy and Nick were on Sabbatical the only way to manage the Children's, church was to set up a table at the back of church which gave the children access to materials linked to themes/ Bible passages currently being covered in the main service.

We were approached to include younger children/toddlers but this has been difficult because of lack of volunteers. We have however set up a box at the back of church containing toys, figures, animals, jigsaws, and books that can be accessed by children under parents' supervision.

We have much to be thankful for:

The children who attend our church seem to enjoy coming and it is truly wonderful to see their faith and love of Jesus growing. Their questions and curiosity certainly support Lucy and I and keep us on our toes.

Please continue to pray for:

More volunteers who would help with our children's groups – it is a great act of service but also helps grow your own faith.

Finally, I would ask that everyone prays for every child who comes in through our church door, they are our future congregation and followers of Jesus.

Lynn Green

Children's Christmas Gift Bags

Covid can be blamed for many things - most of them not good - but in 2020, Covid was responsible for something rather special - the idea of giving away Christmas gift bags to 100 children - many of them from local families with no established connection with the church. Still living with intermittent lockdowns and restrictions, a similar event took place Christmas 2021—but by Christmas 2022 - we thought we would 'shake it up a bit' and try something new.

Almost by accident, however, I ended up putting together approximately 40 gift bags for ages 5-7 and ages 8-11, with extra gifts for toddlers and older children. As in previous years, the gift bags were filled with books, stickers, play putty, soft toys, packets of sweets,

slap bracelets, craft packs, wooden snowflake decorations, stationery items, activity booklets, bunches of bangles and pocket games. Costs were minimal as The Children's Society provided the 'Christingle' bags and most of the items were donated.

As children made their way home after attending the Christmas Eve Craft event, one by one, they came to collect their gift bag. In no time at all a long queue had formed, extending across the room and beyond - many asked for extra bags for their siblings!

There were lots of familiar faces but also quite a number of new ones, all eagerly wanting to know what they might discover. I was delighted with the response but could not have been more surprised - or concerned that some might go home disappointed and empty-handed. God was truly with me that day - there were just enough gift bags and extras to go round!

Many thanks to The Children's Society, WCFP, Books & Bread for Kenya and anyone who kindly donated items.

Points for Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for our children and young people - pray that St George's helps draw them closer to Him
- Praise God for all our volunteers who serve the church and the wider community in so many ways
- each and every day - pray He strengthens & encourages them and pray for new volunteers
- Praise God for sustaining St George's church throughout the Covid pandemic - pray He continues to provide as we face other challenges

Andrea Pritchard

Service Of Prayer For The Sick

Our dedicated group of prayers continue to meet monthly for our service of prayer and pray daily for those who have requested our prayers.

We have two members added to our group during the past year and we support one another in prayer as we pray for those who are sick or in need.

We have been blessed with answers to our prayers and thank God for his continued blessing. We know how much people appreciate the knowledge that they are supported by our prayers.

May God bless us and those for whom we pray.

Pastoral Team Report 2023

At the time of writing the 2022 report I mentioned our pastoral team had started a 6-session training programme, "Exploring Pastoral Care" with an extra session to cover Prayer Ministry.

It was a great privilege for the current pastoral team, Pat Matthews, Pat Davis, Chris Hope and myself to deliver these sessions. The programme helped us share God's word and learn how our Great Shepherd "Jesus" cares for us all. We are greatly blessed to now have a pastoral team of 13 people.

Following on from the training we have had number meetings on how best to take the team forward and now have a plan that is starting to be implemented where we can help our church family and the wider community.

Also, during this time, the new members completed DBS checks and Safeguarding training.

Our Bereavement Support Group continues to meet every Monday 3pm to 4.30pm, except bank holiday Mondays. This is a lovely group where we share friendship and fellowship, and have a caring understanding of how difficult grief can be.

In the past our BSG had a day trip to Wallington Hall. This year we have organised a trip to Holy Island and have invited the church and wider community to join us, we currently have almost 30 people going.

Our Memorial Service of Thanksgiving on the 5th May 2022 was the first one we have been able to hold since the covid pandemic and was attended by almost 100 people, a number of whom had been unable to have a proper funeral and say goodbye to their loved ones as they would have wished.

The service was greatly appreciated and all who attended spoke of how meaningful it was and how much it had helped them.

The St Luke's Day healing service in October was also much appreciated by those who attended.

During the past year we have also been able to take Home Communion to anyone who is unable to get to church. Pat is now able to visit St George's Care Home again and chat to the residents, some of whom get to the 10am Sunday Service and Cuppa, Cake and Company mornings from time to time, and the monthly service has been re-instated after the pandemic restrictions.

We thank God for his calling and the love that He has for us all, we ask that he will continue to bless our team in their ministry.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has been updated and there are 120 names on the new roll (revised on the 11th April 2023).

Two names were added during the year and following the posting of the public notices, no further names were added.

No-one has been removed. Sadly 2 names have been removed by reason of death. A copy of the new roll is available in the church office.

Eve Winstanley Electoral Roll Officer

Income	Actual 2022	budget 2022	Actual 2021
<u>Giving</u>			
Gift Aided	34813	35500	35383
HMRC tax refund	9612	10000	10890
Other Planned Giving	9557	12000	10161
Loose Plate	2717	2000	1362
Donations to Church	3169	2000	1119
PCC Fees	5486	6500	6100
Hire of Rooms	0	250	
<u>Other Income</u>	-		
Photocopying	14	40	6
Refreshments	0	750	700
Memorial Service	0		250
Wednesday Lunches	0		416
Book of Remembrance	400		
Commonwealth war graves	12		12
Quinquennial	0		7
<u>Restricted Income</u>	-		
DDBF Assigned Fees	3594	4000	3289
Fees Organist/Verger	940		594
Income to be paid on	0		88
Meet & Eat/Boxing day	0		184
Toddlers	53		
Monday club	0	120	
Craft Days	70	100	
Book sales (Lent & Christmas)	89	150	132
Specific donations			
Faculty Fees	630		552
Packed Lunches			794
Specific grants *	10711	12	475
Smith Roddam (Solicitor)	90		816
Refund	71		40
Coffee & Cake	4346	3000	3570

Income	Actual 2022	budget 2022	Actual 2021
-	-		
Salary	-		773
Comp Screen	-		30
Streaming	30		
Interest/Credit	155		
Lent/Advent			
TOTAL INCOME (Church)	86559	76422	77743
New Annexe restricted income	49,734		127,511
TOTAL INCOME	136,293		205,254

Specific Grants details

Warm space grants	Spent	Received
Sunderland Council	1215	5150
Durham Diocese		3561
Coalfields Trust		2000
		10711

Note: a heating bill of over £3500 was paid out in early 2023 that these funded

Details of Annexe fund Income

capital appeal	16,206
regular giving	11,595
Gift aid reclaim	16,342
interest	593
grant awards received	4,999
	49,734

Expenditure

Church Costs

	Actual 2022	budget 2022	Actual 2021
-	-		
Parish Share	41000	41000	37500
Upkeep of Services	1048	1000	714
Licence renewal	828	800	
Technology			474
Reimbursed Meet & Eat		400	
Headstone		200	

Church Building Costs

	Actual 2022	budget 2022	Actual 2021
-	-		
Insurance	2650	2700	2547
Heating & Lighting	4258	4400	3935
Water	107	100	753
Boiler Service Contracts	625	900	935
Church Maintenance	1075	2000	872
Fire Safety Maintenance		250	
Cleaning	180	150	306
Churchyard Maintenance	250	300	314
Water Rates	898	550	

Administration Costs

	Actual 2022	budget 2022	Actual 2021
-	-		
Administrator salary	9799	9727	10826
Telephone & Broadband	330	370	371
Photocopying	71	600	1042
Stationery & Postage	370	500	838
Web Page	50	80	179
DDBF Assigned Costs	3744	4000	4936
Donations paid on	744	0	163
Fees Organist, Verger	900	580	610
Sundry Office costs	191		
Book of remembrance	89		
DBS checks	5		
Warm Space	1215		
Streaming	30		
Xfer to CAF	50		

Mission Costs

Study Group	-	100	
Monday Club		100	
Tracts & Printing	88	250	110
Study Books		250	523
DBS checks	22	50	15
Refreshments	875	500	766
Lunches	120	240	681
Childrens's work & craft	130	400	63
course fees		200	94
WORLD GIVING	5516	5000	5020
Garden Party		200	
Travel exp.	312		
Vicar's expenses	0		437
sundry expenses	190		64
Books	257		
Fac for graves		200	1409
Headstone app			165
Christmas on Van		200	361
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (church)</u>	78017	78297	77,023

Expenditure Annexe Project (restricted)

Jasper Kerr (Civil & Structural)	870
Howarth Litchfield (Architect)	8,960
360 deg (surveys)	1260
S R solicitor	1481
Archaeology report	552
bank/sumup fees	6
TGA (M&E Engineering)	6,155
	19,285

TOTAL EXPENDITURE**97,302****Balance Sheet**

	Dec 31st 2022	Dec 31st 2021
Unrestricted Cash at Bank	17,987	18941
Unrestricted		
Designated Funds	15,000	15000
Restricted Funds (Warm Spc)	9,496	
Restricted Funds (Annexe)	175,675	145,226
Total Funds	218167	174,167

Expenditure for ongoing operations of the church excluding the warm space grants was in deficit by £954, however the surplus from all funds for day to day running of the church was £8542.

The annexe Fund rose by £30,449, but in 2022 we were also awarded £457,500 of grants that will be paid when we reach the total required to start work and contract has been signed. The total available for the annexe project, including the Fatfield fund, funds held by the diocese and other future regular giving pledged by local people at year end was £777,481.

We are grateful to the Lord for the generosity of every one of our church family, our community and external funders. We are also grateful to God for the wisdom and prudence of those spending to enable us to cover our costs during a year when many churches and charities have struggled significantly.

Inflationary pressures and increased fuel costs mean we do pray that people will continue to generously help us meet the challenges of the coming year.

These accounts were independently examined by Mr Charlie Forster and approved by the trustees (PCC) at their meeting on April 4th 2023.

Signed by Chair and Vicar, Rev Nick Barr-Hamilton



6 April 2023

The Trustees
St George's Church Fatfield PCC
Vigo Lane
Harraton
Washington
NE38 9AH

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St George's Church, Fatfield PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St George's Church, Fatfield PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 201 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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



Signed:
Name: Charles Dixon Forster
Address: 10 Swinhope, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9HR
Date: 6 April 2023

Minutes of the A.P.C. Meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 **ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS** **(formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)**

1. Opening Prayer & Worship

NBH opened by welcoming all attending to the meeting & read a passage from Ephesians 4, the reading set for Evening Prayer tonight. He commented that we would be thinking about some of the words from that passage later through both meetings. He finished by leading all in prayer, with other prayers offered by those in attendance, ending by commending both meetings into His hands.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Commenting that he hoped all there had received their Report Booklet which contained the minutes from last year's meeting. to parishioners. GW queried the position of Deputy Church Warden & wondered if Michael Hepworth could be approached for this post. NBH commented that this would be something to be discussed in a PCC meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting having been published were accepted as correct, this being proposed by GW & seconded by EF, with 16 votes for & 3 Abstentions.

GW queried the position of Deputy Church Warden & wondered if Michael Hepworth could be approached for this post. NBH commented that this would be something to be discussed in a PCC meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting having been published were accepted as correct, this being proposed by GW & seconded by EF, with 16 votes for & 3 Abstentions.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Wardens

NBH thanked CH for her work over the last year, she was doing an amazing job, with the assistance of various people who, whilst not appointed as Deputy Wardens, are doing a sterling job. He commented that it was wonderful to have others willing to help & if anyone felt called by God from the floor in the meeting, they could be put forward for election as Deputy Warden.

He thanked her again for taking on the role which is acting in a position of legal responsibility to the Bishop. It was proposed by KB & seconded by HE that we re-elect CH which was carried unanimously. The meeting closed with prayer, in particular for CH, & members of the PCC, at 19.55 p.m.

A.P.C.M.

1. Opening Prayer

NBH opened the new meeting with further prayer.

2. Attendees & Apologies

The meeting was attended by:- Len Adams (LA), Elspeth Baird (EB), Rev. Nick Barr-Hamilton (NBH), Clive Bowman (CB), Maureen Bowman (MB), Harry Ellis (HE), Eileen Fletcher (EF), Ruth Forster (RF), Doug Green (DG), Christine Hope (CH), Pat Matthews (PM), Leslie Stevens (LS), Brian Tait (BT), Catherine Tait (CT), Maurice Taylor (MT), Marjorie Thomas (MTh), Gail Watson (GW), Avril Winship (AW), Eve Winstanley (EW), Barry Winstanley (BW), & Lynn Wyatt (LW).

Apologies were received from:- Betty Adams (BA), Lucy Barr-Hamilton (LBH), Margaret Bianchi (MB), Rob Bianchi (RB), Jo-Anne Cohrs (JC), Pat Davis (PD), Tara Etemadi (TE), Mary Gorog (MG), Lucille Hutchinson (LH), Audrey Rayner (ARa), Arthur Ridley (AR), Brenda Ridley (BR), Dorothy Sherrick (DS), Peter Watson (PW), & Terry Wyatt (TW)

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 11th May 2021

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by LS & seconded by GW with 17 votes for & 4 abstentions.

4. Matters Arising

NBH said he had no issues to bring up & there were no matters brought by the meeting.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

EW, our Electoral Roll Officer, advised of the details provided to her by Lorraine Cook, our Administrator. We now have 118 names on the Electoral Roll & have lost 2 members because of deaths. There were no questions from the floor.

6. Presentation of Reports (as circulated previously)

NBH told us that as these had been circulated previously, he did not intend to talk to each one. CH had nothing further to add to her written report, & NBH was able to confirm that there were no reportable safeguarding issues. He asked that members gave thanks to God for this as this remained one of the greatest dangers, & we all need to be aware & diligent of the importance of safeguarding. He suggested we always be welcoming of anyone new but to be aware as well.

As we currently have no Deanery Synod representatives & he was not aware that anyone had attended any meetings, NBH encouraged members to consider this role, & reported that the vicar at Birtley had retired & gone to a church in Wales, so they were in interregnum.

NBH commented that he hoped everyone had had the opportunity to read the Treasurer's Report from DG. Asked if he had anything further to add to the report DG remarked that we should thank God that in a challenging year we were in such a position, although he had noted that loose plate giving was down from services, but the flip side was the income from our Coffee & Cake coffee mornings. He thanked LW for her continuing support to him. NBH also highlighted that the deficit of £3,000 was actually a noncash deficit & the ongoing operations for the year were in surplus. There were no questions from the floor regarding the report. NBH commented that he was grateful to DG, LW & Lorraine in the office for all the work they do, & thanked people for their generosity both to church & the annex project.

He highlighted the grants we have been so fortunate in receiving & that the Lord is providing through the generosity of all. He asked for prayer with members remarking on people's faithfulness to church & the project especially through Covid, & thanks were given for the PCC & their faithfulness too. NBH thanked our independent examiner, Charlie Forster, for the work he had done. NBH asked for a proposal that we accept the accounts as seen, & CH proposed that the meeting accept them, seconded by EF, & the motion was carried unanimously.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years)

NBH advised that at the moment we had only received one nomination for a position on PCC, which was Len Adams, proposed by DG & seconded by GW. NBH commented that he did not intend to pressurise anyone, there should be no pressure to come onto PCC as a trustee, he believes it is important that we have the right people as trustees, to help lead the church, & keep everything in order for the Charity Commission. LW agreed to stand from the floor, commenting she was happy to stand as long as she was not on Deanery Synod, which was proposed by HE & seconded by PM, with both nominations being elected unopposed. NBH thanked them both for their willingness to stand. He asked if 2 or 3 people would pray for them highlighting that PCC members have a spiritual responsibility as well as their legal responsibilities as trustees.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

NBH thanked Charlie Forster for his work this year advising the meeting that he has sent him an official letter of thanks & a gift. CF has confirmed he is happy to remain in the role & DG proposed, seconded by CT that we again formally ask CF to be our external examiner.

NBH thanked CF for agreeing to stand explaining that if we go over the £250,000 income mark CF would be unable to examine the accounts, & we would have to have an examination by a chartered accountant or other suitably registered person, but at the moment this is not likely.

9. Chairman's Report

NBH commented that he had written many of his thoughts in the report booklet, which he hoped people had read. He would start his comments tonight with a big thank you, although he knew many from the whole church were not at tonight's meeting. He told us that he had been completing a report to the Charity Commission & one question was that apart from the trustees, how many volunteers do we have; many of our trustees' volunteer in other ways anyway, so he had sat down with the electoral roll & gone through it to try to count up the number of different people who are involved with various things & had got to 52. He believes that it is an underestimation, but that is almost half the church family that are serving in different ways which is an incredible testament to what God calls us to & moves people's hearts & he thanked everyone. He continued commenting on the work being done through the further lockdowns in 2021 & also on people stepping forward when he had had his own struggles with ill health, thanking in particular RB & MB, & also mentioned that in the coming autumn when he & the family were to take a 3-month sabbatical, so many people were stepping forward to help & serve. He believes it is a joy to be here & a joy to serve everyone, & he is encouraged by how the church has flourished in this time, especially through Covid.

Some people have not returned but they are very few compared to many churches who have lost so many more than we have. He referred back to the passage he had read at the beginning of the Vestry Meeting, commenting that Christ took the way of the cross. NBH believes that what we think about affects what we do & we can all get bound up in our own thoughts, saying that the passage he had read is a reminder of this & the dangers of it.

He went on to talk about the impact that inflation is having, telling the meeting of the grants we have received for the new annex, & what the PCC were discussing about this as the belief is it will not be as much to maintain but still somewhere for people to come & meet. He mentioned that we are still short of leaders for the young people but have been blessed with people coming to faith. He knows there is a limit to what people can do, but he is very encouraged at the plans in place for when he is away. Asking for any questions from the floor NBH reminded everyone that he always here, ready to be challenged & encouraged. He asked that people used the Annual Report booklet in their prayers.

10. Any Other Business

NBH had no further business for this evening. He commented that at next year's meeting there would likely be a review of the Standing Orders as some are out of date & things have changed so they are not in line with the way church now functions. Before the meeting closed CT commented that she had received great comfort from MT, PM & EW & wanted to thank that we very blessed to have such a loving church family, & she thanked NBH & the family for keeping everyone going through the 'Covid' years. NBH agreed that we are blessed but as has already been mentioned it has taken its toll on him & the family & he has needed people's help as he had already spoken about. He asked for prayer for all things discussed this evening & also to remember those we have lost over the last year.

The meeting closed with the Grace at 20.24pm.

Accounts



**ST GEORGE
FATFIELD**



ANNUAL REPORT BOOK 2021

**Published for the
Annual Parochial Meeting
On 10th May 2022**

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Parishioner Meeting & APCM Index

page number

3	AGENDA
4 - 8	APCM Trustees Annual Report
9 - 12	Vicar's Report, Biddick Academy Ministry & Schools' Ministry
13 - 14	Church Finance Statement For 2021 & World Giving
14	Administrator's Report
15	Electoral Roll
15	Service of Prayer For The Sick
16 - 17	Pastoral Team Report
17	Mothers' Union
18 - 19	Church Wardens' Report 2020-2021
20	Building Group
21 - 22	Washington Community Food Project
22	Meet & Eat
23	Coffee, Cake & Company
23	Safeguarding Report
24	Christmas Gift Bags
25	Cleaning Team
25 - 26	Toddlers' Report
27	Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service
28	Youth Group
29 - 32	Accounts : Income and Expenditure
33 - 36	Minutes Of The APCM Meeting 2021

Parishioner Meeting & APCM

Tuesday 10th May 2022

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on 11th May 2021
4. Matters arising
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)
 - Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)
 - Safeguarding
 - Deanery Synod report
 - Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.
7. Elections
 - PCC (4 persons for 3 years)
8. Appointment of External Examiner
9. Chairman's report.
10. Any other business

APCM Trustees Annual Report

2021 Report & Accounts for the PCC at St George's Church, Fatfield

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in his church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including safeguarding, data protection, health and safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support the incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
- provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) a drop in, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth club and an all age group craft and games group.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and there is a vision to extend the church building to better enable us to achieve this given the limitations of the existing building and its facilities.

Achievements and Performance

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports throughout normal times, along with the way it supported the local community through the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community which have had to be radically different for the past 2 years given the restrictions imposed on places of worship by government.

In addition to our regular services and groups, we normally conduct numerous baptisms and weddings (although many of these continued to be postponed through 2021), as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service.

Our Easter and Christmas services were also radically different, but Christmas did see us beginning to return to normality. The church continued to hold many funerals and burials in 2021 and the churchyard now has under 10 new plots remaining.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision.

Financial Review

The Financial review produced by our treasurer and independently examined is available later in this document. The PCC and incumbent are incredibly grateful to all who give financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

Reserves Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover 3 months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th 2018.

Plans for future period

Our separate vision document contains plans for where we feel God calling us, but 2022 will see us continue to focus on COVID recovery and taking the church forward in a very changed world. The new

community annexe and café designs were granted planning permission and faculty, and a gift day in June saw over £120,000 pledged by the church family for which we are very thankful. With other historic funds and two grants awarded late in 2021 we now have 44% of the total needed and will press on with the fundraising effort through 2022. This plan to extend the building will better enable the Aims and Purpose of the church and its need has been made much more apparent through the COVID crisis. The annexe will also help us reduce our carbon footprint through the use of heat-pumps and photovoltaic technology. We will need to think more about the carbon footprint of our old church building in 2022. Inflation remains the biggest risk to the new annexe project.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes, the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and APA's, any members of C of E Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the APCM and those co-opted by the PCC.

The Full PCC (trustees) meets 9 times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting. The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them by name, but you work in service of Christ and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

Administrative information

St George's Church is found at Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington NE38 9AH. It is an Anglican Church of England church within the diocese of Durham. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

PCC members who have served from the APCM of 2021 (11th May 2021) are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (Chair)

Wardens: Mrs Christine Hope

Readers: Mr Maurice Taylor & Mrs Pat Matthews

APAs: Mrs Eve Winstanley & Mrs Pat Davis

Deanery Synod: Mrs Lynn Wyatt

Elected Members

Ms Jo-Anne Cohrs

Ms Tara Etemadi

Mr Doug Green (Treasurer)

Mr Maurice Hepworth

Mrs Megan Hepworth

Mr Michael Hepworth

Mrs Lucille Hutchinson

Mrs Andrea Pritchard

Mrs Leslie Stevens

Mrs Catherine Tait

Mrs Gail Watson

Mr Peter Watson

Mrs Ruth Forster serves as the PCC Secretary.

Mrs Kate Grimwood serves as the elected Safeguarding officer with Mr Doug Green as the deputy safeguarding officer.

The PCC of St George's have adopted safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the porch notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

The Independent Examiner appointed at the APCM of 2021 is Mr Charlie Forster.

The day to day management of church activities is delegated to the Incumbent and the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook

Accounts Approved by the PCC on 5th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (PCC Chair). They have been independently examined by Mr Charlie Forster.

Vicar's Report

January 2021 feels a long time ago now. It began in lockdown, but with the positive news that vaccine rollouts were accelerating fast. With the schools closing their doors once more, a small group of volunteers decided we would attempt to provide hot meals for young people while they could not eat at school. What was initially going to be just 2 weeks turned into a 3 month marathon. Working with WCFP, a toastie stall was set up outside (with strict COVID rules in place) and along with jacket potatoes and macaroni cheese, over 1500 lunches were provided to young people.

In April the team wanted something new to do and with lockdown restrictions easing, working with the Washington Community Food Project again, we were able to set up a community café 3 mornings a week. Despite being outdoors only, we were amazed at how popular it became. It was very evident that our area needed somewhere for isolated people to meet with others safely.

Easter was different to before, but at least this year we could celebrate it together. Both Good Friday and Easter Sunday afternoon were celebrated outdoors. Our outdoor services restarted on mothering Sunday and the morning service began to grow as more people began to feel safe. We continued to stream Sunday a.m. on YouTube for those who felt safer at home.

As rules eased further, the delivery lunch club that ran through the COVID crisis returned to the building and we received a formal food hygiene rating. Thanks to the hard work of our fantastic volunteers we were awarded 5 stars. The community café was allowed to move indoors and dropped down to twice a month with lunches now on the Wednesdays.

Numerous other ministries restarted and some normality began to return, but we continued with our outdoor afternoon service until late into the autumn, as some still felt safer outdoors. Children's work, toddlers, our bereavement support, Ukulele group, youth group and schools work all returned later in the year, but without a doubt we

have struggled with enough helpers for our work with young people.

This year, Christmas was much more normal, but out of choice we had an outdoor carol service on Christmas eve evening that was very well attended and we had two Carols by Candlelight services instead of one so people could socially distance if they wanted. 'Christmas on a Van' returned which proved very popular again (despite the lights breaking down half way through the final evening) but sadly the schools cancelled their services in church owing to government guidance. These were done online again.

Separately, our Community Annexe project continued to progress. Planning permission was granted in April and we had a gift day at church in June. I was genuinely humbled by the generosity of our church family as so many bought into the vision for this project to empower our mission and bless the local community in Jesus' name. With funds available, the trustees took the decision to press on with the RIBA stage 4 work that will see engineering and technical designs drawn up and a tender pack produced. By the end of the year, with grants and other funds, £294,000 had been pledged or given, about 43% of the total needed to complete the project.

We thank God for all the volunteers who have worked so hard to enable so much to take place and restart through 2021. Our building has been a hub of activity, at times so busy we have struggled to find times to hold funerals and again highlighting the need for additional inclusive space and proper facilities/kitchen. We have shown that we are Christians who love and will serve our local community and follow Christ's call no matter what the world throws at us.

We also thank God for the generosity of so many people, who enable us to pay fixed costs for the ministry we have done to serve young people, families and elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

Through the year we have also had a number of sadnesses. Good friends have passed to be with the Lord and a number of us have lost friends and relatives in difficult circumstances. We pray that all who

grieve find hope and peace in the good news of Christ and his resurrection. We are having a memorial service for all who have lost loved ones in 2022, especially for those who were limited in their funeral plans because of COVID restrictions for the past 2 years.

From a personal perspective, all the work of the pandemic began to take its toll on me and I thank Rob and Margaret for all they do in alleviating some of the pressure that I have faced each week. I also thank Chris for all she does as our church warden and Terry who retired in June. I also thank our Readers and Pastoral workers as they began to take on more of the burden. There are too many others to thank by name, but I am humbled by all your sacrifice and give thanks to God for you and all you do, from cleaning, maintenance and administration, to music, worship and outreach. I am also grateful to Doug who took on the role of treasurer allowing Lynn to finally stand down, although she still helps with some of the finances in the office. Thank You All.

While there are still some who have not returned to church and we pray for them, we give thanks that there are many new faces at St George's and we continue to grow. We press on through 2022 in a very different world, one that contains much uncertainty and fear, but one where we can bring hope and life. We continue to serve people in need in many ways and pray that the Lord will continue to provide all that is necessary with both finance and people to ensure this continues.

Give thanks for:

- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of our ministries, mission and people.
- The ways in which people serve and sacrifice time, effort and money to support the many ministries here in Christ's church.
- The finance and grants given towards the Community Annexe project.
- All of our volunteers and teams who do so much.
- Many answered prayers through the year.
- A real sense of family amongst the church as we serve together.

Pray for:

- Our mission and evangelism through the year.
- Nick and Lucy, as well as the church and the team covering when we take a Sabbatical in the Autumn.
- Many more grants to be awarded towards our community annexe project.
- A second church warden to support Chris and the church. New trustees to step up as others retire.
- More volunteers to take on some of the harder ministry roles with young people and on Sundays.
- That all of us would continue to have our focus on Jesus and trust his sovereignty and faithfulness, no matter how difficult it becomes.

Biddick Academy & Schools' Ministry

Give thanks for:

- Restarting the Biddick Academy lunch club
- Ongoing assemblies, Christmas services and work as a governor.
- A positive relationship with the heads and good relationships with staff and governors.
- Answered prayers

Pray for:

- That the 'Alpha' lunch club would become more stable.
- That assemblies would become more regular and for our links with the schools to develop again. E.g. lessons, visits to church, new ideas.
- The Christian faith to be seen as a good thing for young people and opportunities to share the gospel more widely with staff and students.
- Teachers, pupils and their families might come to salvation.
- Ongoing good relationships and positive influence as an Academy Trustee.

Church Finance Statement for 2021-22 & World Giving

2021 has been a very challenging year mainly due to the Covid Pandemic, with the Church having to respond to a range of financial issues. However, it is important that we praise God that he has guided us throughout the year and helped to maintain all aspects of Church life and indeed supported us in establishing some new opportunities. At the end of the year, we finished with a deficit of £3480. Earlier in the year I was sure that the deficit would be larger, mainly due to the different patterns of giving that developed over the year and the lack of income from some activities. But the stalwart members of this church and faith in God proved me wrong. As in the previous year, giving was down on the plate and some of the envelope giving was also down. But the donations, gift aid and other activities such as 'Cuppa, Cakes and Company' made up for that.

The financial breakdown for 2021 can be found on pages 29-32.

Thank God for the many pledges, gifts, grants and donations that have come into the church throughout 2021 for the new build project. God blessed us graciously through the Gift Day, where church members, friends and the local community showed their commitment to the project

This is my first year as treasurer and I would like to thank Lynn Wyatt for her dedication to the role for some years. I would like also to thank her, for the support in helping me to move into the role. However, she has not escaped totally as she is still assisting in collating and banking money and continuing to work on Gift Aid. I pray God will continue to bless her as she also explores other activities. God has graciously blessed us in having a dedicated treasure in Lynn.

World Giving

We gave 10% of our freewill giving to our three -year partners and to the charities put forward for one -year gifts. We were able to support Nightingales, Team for U, Connect, Biserica Crestina, Fundatia Stanca, Books & Bread For Kenya, Mission To Seafarers, Samaritan's Purse,

ODM and the Durham Lesotho Link. We are so thankful that God has put us in a position where we could again support these organisations.

Answers to prayer:

- For the faithfulness of God's people at St Georges in supporting the work in very difficult financial times.
- For the growing influence St Georges has had within the community over 2021

Items for Prayer:

- That people continue their giving to the church despite the 'cost of living crisis' that we are experiencing
- More grants and gifts towards the new build will continue to come into the church

In Christ's Name,
Doug Green - Treasurer

Administrator's Report

I am now in my third year of being the Administrator for St George's Church, and no two days are the same.

The role I have isn't just about the admin work, it is so much more and I am truly blessed to be a part of the St George's family.

I pray for everyone in our church family and that our vision of the annexe will soon be a reality.

I am so thankful for the support I receive in the office especially from Jo-Anne.

Lorraine Cook
Parish Administrator

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has been updated and there are 118 names on the new Roll (Revised on 26th of April, 2022). This is a net increase of 2 names.

Four names were added during the year and following posting of public notices, no further names were added.

No one has been removed. Unfortunately 2 names removed by reason of death.

A copy of the new Roll is available in the church office.

Lorraine Cook pp
Electoral Roll Officer

Prayers For The Sick

It is good that we are now able to meet together in church for our Service of Prayer For The Sick on the third Friday of the month now that covid restrictions are lifted. However, our prayers continued throughout as our commitment to praying daily for those who ask for our prayers is always there, and many have sought our prayers during these difficult times.

We thank God for answered prayers and people have commented that when physical healing is not always possible, they have felt the comfort and support that prayer gives them.
May the Lord continue to bless us.

Pat Matthews

Pastoral Team Report

It is good we are getting back to normality after two extremely difficult years and able to socialise more, although understandably some people are still very cautious. It is possible to visit people in their homes again, so long as everyone concerned is comfortable with this.

Hospital visiting is still not allowed and we are not permitted to visit the residents in St Georges Care Home yet, but we have been delighted to welcome residents and staff to our coffee mornings and 10am service when they are able to come.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful team of volunteers who have served the community and our church family all the way through with coffee mornings and the lunch clubs and continue to do so.

There is so much pastoral care goes on in our daily lives – the church family caring for one another in so many different ways – the flesh and bones of God's love for us, and for these many blessings we thank God.

At the time of writing, we are sending our invitations and preparing for the Memorial Service of Thanksgiving on 8th May. Covid prevented us from holding this much-appreciated service for the past 2 years and we know that many people were unable to have a proper funeral for their loved one. We hope and pray that this will be a help and comfort to them.

During the lockdown our Bereavement Support Group team and members kept in touch with each other by phone, making sure everyone was coping. Then in September 2021 we were able to come together again in church, it was lovely to see each other and get back into our routine of fellowship and friendship and welcoming others. In February 2000 the pastoral team started a 6-session training programme, 'Exploring Pastoral Care' and by 3 sessions into the programme we went into lockdown. On the 22nd March 2022 we started up the course again. We started from session one and are adding an extra session to cover Prayer Ministry and this will be completed 17th May 2022.

We feel very encouraged to the response and enthusiasm of the attendees. We are running two sessions, one on an afternoon and another on the evening. We praise God for his hand in all of this and it's a privilege to share God's word and His care for us as we go through this programme. God has truly lifted us all up and is setting us on a path of discipleship to serve our church and community in the future.

May our God continue to support our pastoral work.

Pat Matthews and Eve Winstanley, on behalf of Pat Davies and Chris Hope.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union restarted meetings in November 2021. Our members are few, only six at the moment. We lost one member during the pandemic. We would like to keep St George's Fatfield branch going, but we need more ladies to join us.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1:15 pm.

We give thanks for:

- 118 years of Mothers' Union membership in this church
- All the people who have gone before us

We pray for:

- St George's Fatfield Branch's future in this place

Brenda Ridley (secretary)

Church Wardens' Report 2021-2022

Unbelievably, March 2022 marked the second anniversary of the first covid lockdown. We are living in a changed world, but thanks to the efforts of Nick, Lucy, and the faithful members of St. George's congregation, and most of all, the love of God Himself, as a Church we have weathered it, although sadly we have lost some of our brothers and sisters in Christ. As a Christian family, we have soldiered on.

Gradually, over the past twelve months, the services have been restored to pretty much what they used to be:-

The 10 am service - has been held in the building itself throughout the past year. Gradually the congregation has increased as people have grown more confident about entering the building. When required, we have all worn masks, whilst the seating has been sparse, and numbers limited according to government guidelines.

The 4 pm service - whilst throughout Spring and Summer of 2021, this service was held in the Church yard, and the weather was favourable. It wasn't rained off once! I'm not being trite when I say this is surely miraculous. This is the north east of England! It rains and often forgets to stop. In Autumn, with the weather being cooler and of course the evenings drawing in, we continued to keep the service at 4pm, and moved into the building itself. We have maintained a faithful, steady congregation.

The 8 am service - On Easter Sunday, for the first time since covid, the 8 am Holy Communion service was held. It is anticipated that it shall continue to be held once a month.

In August last year we had our parish inspection, with the Archdeacon, the Ven. Bob Cooper. Some actions are needed, but the report was highly favourable, with the Archdeacon stating we have a well run Church with good protocols in place.

As warden I have much to thank God and the congregation at St. George's for. I have received a heart-warming number of offers of support, for which I am grateful. Also, I have been ably assisted by

Eileen Fletcher (national treasure springs to mind) and I owe her a debt of gratitude. Also, until the beginning of this year, I was helped by Michael Hepworth, who for family reasons is unable to attend St. George's at present. He is hugely missed, not only by myself, but the congregation too.

Points for prayer and praise:

- Praise God that we can again meet in Church, maintain fellowship with one another, and worship Him.
- From our local community, I have received a significant number of favourable comments regarding our ministry. Praise God that we have strong local support.
- Thanks be to God for Nick's vision and dedication. May he and Lucy be blessed in their work.
- Whilst we thank God for the contributions so far received towards the building of the annex, we also pray that with His help and grace the momentum will keep on going.
- Praise God that the ministry and outreach of this Church is continuing, including the Monday and Friday Cuppa and Coffee mornings, the Bereavement Support Group, and the Mother and Toddler group, and ask for His blessing upon those who faithfully give their time. May these continue, and more volunteers come forward.

We are all far from perfect, but we do have a strong fellowship, and with Gods' blessing this will continue and reach out to others. Approximately 500 years ago, Henry the eighth's sixth and final Queen ended a letter with the words, 'God is a wonderful man.' I can think of no better way to conclude.

Love and blessings,
Chris Hope

Building Group

2021 has been practically identical to the previous year. The continued presence of the Coronavirus meant that the group was restricted to routine maintenance in the church building. Changing light bulbs, repairing broken taps etc.

The portable electrical appliances, all 70 of them, were tested under the PAT Regulations and were given a clean bill of health. As was the church Fire Alarm system which underwent a full service and test of its constituent components.

The one piece of new work was the installation of a support handrail to the steps outside the entrance to the church office.

As always, the hardest work of all was the maintenance of the church grounds. The tidy and orderly appearance of the graveyard and its surrounding areas is due to the effort put in by Group members Peter Watson and Nigel Heppell, ably supported by Norman Fatherley and John Adams. They have kept the church grounds looking lovely and this has led to favourable comments being made by visitors who themselves maintain individual graves.

The planned clean-up day of the church and the outside areas had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus, just as it was in 2020.

As was said in the previous year's report we hope that next year's report will contain a list of new jobs carried out by the Group.

Prayers of thanks: for the appreciation shown by the congregation for our work, and prayers also for the time and effort put in by the Group members who made it possible

Prayers of hope: that we continue the return to our former mode of operation and we also pray that there may be an interest shown by other members of the congregation in joining the Group to help us in our tasks.

Len Adams and Peter Watson

Washington Community Food Project Working With St. George's Church

Once again our thanks go to the people of St. George's for all the help and support we have received during 2021. Your donations of both cash and supplies have been very gratefully received by the volunteers of WCFP on behalf of the clients.

Our numbers continue to slowly increase, month on month, and our clientele is changing. We are now supporting many more families who are finding they just cannot manage on what they have coming in each week. Many are working in low paid jobs on zero hours contracts or are self-employed whose businesses have failed due to COVID. Most people are only seeking help for one or two weeks due to some unexpected expense, (washer break down, sickness) for which they had no reserve.

We continue to support several churches, homes and institutions with our surplus bread, cakes and fresh supplies. This food we receive from local stores would be destroyed if we did not take it and use it as we do.

Our outlet at St. George's is a much needed resource allowing people access to food parcels and advice without having to travel from the area and although demand is not great, you are offering a very valuable and helpful service to the local community. Several clients who have visited the Church for support then continue their support through the Galleries outlet.

Our 'surprise' (We have no idea until we do the after close collections from the shops what we will have) Christmas Eve delivery service of meat and vegetables relies heavily on members of the Church for drivers both to collect from stores and deliver out to clients. Speak to Peter, Gail, Brian or Terry if you want to hear more about our Christmas Eve service.

We give thanks for:

- The WCFP cannot thank the people of St. George's enough for all

the help and support we receive throughout the year and we send you all a great big thank you.

- We also thank God for the volunteers who work tirelessly to help anyone who comes in or contacts us in any way. No one ever leaves either empty handed or disappointed.
- Our prayer of thanks for all we receive from the people of Washington is constant and on-going.

We pray :

- that we use the resources we receive well and that God will continue to help us in our decision making, support us in our aims and help us to do this work in His name.

God bless.

Maureen Bowman

Secretary WCFP

April 2021-2022

Meet and Eat

We thank the team who ran meet and eat pre-covid and for all their advice when we took over. After we stopped delivering lunches last summer, we started meet and eat in church again. We now meet twice a month, with a new team of volunteers. We are lucky enough to have enough volunteers so we can have a rota of people cooking. We were very pleased to receive a 5 star hygiene rating from Sunderland council, although this has brought new challenges! We generally have between 15 to 20 guests each time. Due to the high number of volunteers we are now able to offer lunch twice a month.

We pray:

- that we continue to reach more people in the local community and that they will come to know Jesus Christ.

Keira Batchelor and the Team

Coffee, Cake and Company

Our twice weekly coffee mornings have been running for a year now. We have about 30 - 50 guests each time and that number has been fairly consistent over the year. Most of the cakes are either donations of food from businesses who have surplus stock or from people who kindly bake for us so the running costs are minimal. This means all the donations can be used in church. We have continued the link between church and the care home as residents have been able to come for coffee with their families and we have visitors from a residential home in Penshaw.

We give thanks for:

- all the volunteers who have helped make the coffee mornings so popular and for all the people in the local community who come.

We pray:

- that the annexe may come to fruition as CCC has shown there is a desire for a community cafe.

Keira Batchelor and the Team

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and have the relevant policies in place.

We give thanks for:

- Almighty God we give you thanks that You have kept us safe for yet another year
- No issues regarding Safeguarding
- Thank you that St George's is a safe place for those that seek peace.

We pray for:

- The plans for the annexe will come to fruition
- That all applications for grants will be favourably met and that the building work will commence as soon as possible

God Bless, Kate Grimwood

Christmas Gift Bags 2021

The return of our church's Nativity service successfully brought families together and, in a very uplifting way, helped spread the message that Christmas is a time, not only for gathering, but for giving and for joyous celebration.

In the light of this and the youngsters' spirited performances, the end of the service seemed a fitting time to hand out 60+ children's Christmas gift bags.

One by one, Lynn Green warmly greeted the little (and not so little) thespians & presented them with barely-decorated brown paper bags. Each one was age appropriate and filled with a Christmas story book, craft packs (snowflakes, tree ornaments, baubles and/or an origami church), charming knitted character, colourful 'slap' band, various craft materials, 'magic snake' cube toy or card game and confectionery - including chocolate! Brothers & sisters and visiting children from our growing church family were also invited to take a gift bag home.

It was hoped the paper bags and their contents would prompt smiles, encourage creativity as well as serve to remind them that Jesus, the most precious and miraculous gift given to us all, came from the humblest of beginnings - so whether a brown paper bag or a rough wooden manger - it's what's inside that really matters.

Many thanks to Jo-Anne, Mary Hill, the WCFP, BBK, all who helped or kindly donated items and to St George's church itself - not the prettiest of buildings, but just take a look at what's inside...

Points for prayer and praise:

- Please pray for further opportunities to draw more children into the church family
- Give thanks for the many special gifts our children have and pray that they learn to appreciate and enjoy sharing those gifts with each other
- Give thanks for the joy of giving

Andrea Pritchard

Cleaning Team

The team have restarted after the pandemic. We meet on Fridays at 2 pm for a couple of hours. We would welcome anyone with spare time to join us with hoovering, dusting, cleaning brasses and mopping floors etc. As the church is being used more, we need to keep up with these jobs.

We give thanks for:

- All those who have gone before us and taken on this duty

We pray for:

- More helpers will give of their time

Len, Betty, Avril and Brenda

Toddlers

Our Church Toddler group began to meet again in the Autumn of 2021. It is wonderful to be back serving the community in this way. We are now just using the main church room downstairs as our meeting place with the children certainly taking over the entire room every Tuesday morning. We have moved the toys downstairs into the corner of the room, and this is certainly helping with setting up the room quickly on a Tuesday morning.

Initially adults were asked to wear a mask when bringing along their children and we asked that only one adult per child to attend. Most adults have now removed their masks, but we continue to be vigilant with cleaning, handwashing, and the use of anti-bac.

We currently have 23 children on our list to attend and have now begun a waiting list because we are at capacity. We have five volunteers running the toddlers including myself.

The children continue to enjoy the opportunity to play with the toys alongside their adult and the volunteers for the first part of the session, we stop around 10.15 for a story followed by juice and biscuits. The children can then play again or join in the craft activity we plan each

week to link to the story we have shared. We finish the session with songs and finally our 'goodbye bubbles'.

In these few months we have been open it has been a delight to see the children grow in confidence, many of them when we first reopened were reluctant to leave the side of their adult. The impact of Covid and just being in their family bubble had meant that they hadn't really had the opportunity to play alongside other children or engage with adults beyond their immediate family – it has been a joy to be able to offer these opportunities.

The adults who come along have also benefitted from the time to chat over a cup of coffee/tea and we have been happy to listen and help where we can. I know that both the children and adults who attend really appreciate coming along to St George's Toddler group and it has been lovely seeing some of our toddler group now coming along to the church service on a Sunday, as well as attending other church outreach events.

We thank God and feel blessed that we are helping and making a difference to the lives of children and adults in the community.

We thank God for the opportunity to show the love of Jesus to others and would pray that they come to want to know more about him.

We continue to pray for the building project and impact that could have on further serving the young people in our community.

Finally, can I thank all who come along every Tuesday to serve our community in this way including the two 'young' men who lift out and put away the toys.

Lynn Green

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

The weekly Sunday Children's Group resumed in September of last year with Lucy and I leading two small groups of children in learning more about Jesus and the Christian faith. In total we probably have around 10 children who regularly attend the group.

The groups are split into two small groups with Lucy leading the older group (Key Stage 2 +) and me leading the younger group. We plan a passage/story from the bible to read and discuss each week, with the younger children often making and creating a craft linked to the story to take home and share with their parents hopefully stimulating further conversation. The older group often ask challenging questions about what they read and link events to current experiences, as they seek to understand their faith.

Opportunity is also given for our young people to share their concerns, successes, and joys. They have such busy lives!

We would love to see more children coming along to share their faith and learn more about Jesus together. We have had requests to find a way to take even younger children, those below 3 years of age but now with only Lucy and I leading it is proving to be a difficult request to meet – we are praying and hoping that we are joined by other volunteers who could help with children's Sunday groups.

We have much to be thankful for - The opportunity to include our children more actively in church life once again and begin their relationship with Jesus is amazing.

We are blessed with the children who do attend church regularly who want to know more about the Bible and certainly challenge us to think about our own faith.

Proverbs 22:6 - ***'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.'***

Please continue to pray for - More volunteers who would help with our children's groups – it is a great act of service but also helps grow your own faith.

Finally, I would ask you all to pray for each of our children and indeed all the children who live in our community who do not yet know Jesus.

Lynn Green

Youth Group Report

Circumstances collided this year to mean it felt right to begin an 11+ group away from Sundays for the first time in our membership of St George's. With only 2 Sunday morning children's leaders, and at least 5 regular youth attending, the most for a long time, and all of whom had demonstrated ably that children and youth can participate in a church meeting, we took the opportunity provided to start the group after school on a Thursday. Meeting for 2 hours, we have been reading and discussing Mark's gospel, involving drawing, lego and thinking about what is going on, chatting about life, apologetics and faith. Then we share dinner together and hopefully continue to build one another up in love as we spend time and get to know each other better each week. It has been a total joy to do this! Give thanks to the Lord that He saw fit to organise circumstances in this way.

Please pray...

We'd love to include some outdoor and other activities in our programme but so far this hasn't been possible for various reasons. These would be to continue to build relationships and aim to invite friends to, so we'd love for this to happen but need God to inspire and open doors.

We'd love the group to grow and remain friendly and accessible to incoming kids, both those graduating primary school and friends, so we all need open hearts and welcoming faces.

Mostly give thanks though, for this brilliant group of young people!

Lucy Barr-Hamilton

2021 Income and Expenditure—Independently Examined

Income	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
<u>Giving</u>			
Gift Aided	35383	33000	34556
HMRC tax refund	10890	9500	9880
Other Planned Giving	10161	12000	9423
Loose Plate	1362	6000	1131
Donations to Church	1119	2000	4548
PCC Fees	6100		6037
Hire of Rooms			126
transfer to bank			47
<u>Other Income</u>			
Photocopying	6	40	24
Refreshments	700	750	1007
Focus		187	38
Craft Days		300	
Memorial Service	250		
Coffee and Cakes	3570		
Wednesday lunches	416		
Quinquennial	7		
Commonwealth war graves	12	12	12
<u>Restricted Income</u>			
DDBF Assigned Fees	3289		4136
Fees Organist/Verger	594		380
Income to be repaid	88	2000	342
Meet & Eat/Boxing day	184		
All Age donations			38
Monday club		200	40
Specific grants	475		2425
Book sales (Lent & Christmas)	132		5
Advertising Focus			0
Faculty fees Graves	552		3150
Coalfields Grant			8112
Toddlers			250

Income (cont)	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Packed lunches	794		
Furlough from HMRC			2695
Refund	40		
Salary	773		
Comp screen	30		
smith Roddam	816		55
Total Church income	77743	65989	88457
 New build (Annexe Fund)	 127511	 15000	 35931
TOTAL INCOME	205254		124388
 <u>Expenditure</u>	 Actual 2021	 Budget 2021	 Actual 2020
<u>Church Costs</u>			
Parish Share	37500	41000	41000
Upkeep of Services	714	1000	387
Licence renewal		670	919
Technology	474		3379
 <u>Church Building Costs</u>			
Insurance	2547	2500	2507
Heating & Lighting	3935	4000	3871
Water	753	100	107
Boiler Service Contracts	935	840	968
Church Maintenance	872	2000	835
Fire Safety Maintenance		200	150
Cleaning	306	150	194
Churchyard Maintenance	314	100	84
 <u>Administration Costs</u>			
Administrator salary	10826	8440	8998
Telephone & Broadband	371	370	412
Photocopying	1042	400	467
Stationery & Postage	838	400	564
Web Page	179	55	50

Expenditure (cont.)	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
DDBF Assigned Costs	4936		2052
Donations Repaid	163	2000	768
Fees Organist, Verger	610		240
Sundry Office costs			59
Quinquennial		2200	
<u>Mission Costs</u>		200	
Monday Club			16
Tracts & Printing	110	500	227
Study Books			30
DBS checks	15	50	
Refreshments	766	700	185
Children's work & craft	63	750	594
course fees			72
WORLD GIVING	5020	6900	6290
lunches	681		1067
books	523		368
Faculty for graves	1409		2450
Vicar's expenses		500	555
Travel Expenses		500	
Pastoral team			60
headstone app	165		55
new tables/screens			1931
Training	94	200	
Christmas on the van	361		144
Sundry exp.	64		
<i>xfer to CAF (savings account)</i>	4200		
<u>Total Church Expenditure</u>	81223	* 76725	82055
 New Build Expenses	 5358		 13657
Total expenditure	86581		95712

Balance Sheet	Dec 31st 2021	Dec 31st 2020
Unrestricted Cash at Bank	18941	18214
Designated Funds	15000	15000
Restricted Funds (Annexe)	140226	22274
 Total Funds	 174167	 55488

* Expenditure for ongoing operations of the church before the non-cash expense (transfer) of £4200 to the CAF savings account was £77,023 for 2021, leaving us with a surplus from ongoing operations of £720 for 2021.

We are grateful to the Lord for the generosity of people and the prudence of those spending to enable us to remain in surplus during a year when many churches and charities have struggled significantly.

Inflationary pressures on fuel and other costs means we do pray that people will generously help us meet the challenges of the coming year.

These accounts were independently examined by Mr Charlie Forster and approved by the trustees (PCC) at their meeting on April 5th 2022.

Minutes of the APC Meeting
Held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7:30 pm
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS
(formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer & Worship

Nick opened by welcoming people to our first blended meeting, with people in church & several joining us online via Zoom. He commented that these are still strange circumstances for us all.

He read a passage from Psalm 128, the reading set for Evening Prayer tonight. He felt it was relevant to where we are in our lives at the moment but believed that the words were encouraging us to keep on serving God as we take the church forward. Nick finished by leading us in prayer, with other prayers offered by those in attendance, ending by commending both meetings into His hands.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by Gail Watson & seconded by Terry Wyatt, with 12 votes for & the remaining attendees abstaining.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Wardens

Nick thanked Terry Wyatt & Christine Hope for their work over the last few months. He spoke particularly of Terry, as he is to retire, finally, as a Warden after agreeing to stay on much longer during the pandemic, & thanked him for all he does, & had done, saying he had done so much. Christine added that she very much agreed with these sentiments. Nick then spoke of the role of Church Warden & what the responsibilities were, pointing out that just because Terry did many extra things these were because that was what he wanted to do, & were not necessarily an expected part of the role.

Nick told us he wanted to propose a formal vote of thanks to Terry, which was seconded by Ruth Forster & carried unanimously by the meeting. At the moment, there is no-one stepping into Terry's place, & Nick asked that we pray for Christine as she continues in her role & that He speaks to someone's heart & they come forward to be our other Church Warden.

The meeting closed with prayer at 19.55 p.m.

APCM

1. Opening Prayer

Nick opened the new meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Formal apologies were received from Sheila Beale, Ken Brown, Mary Gorog, Pat Matthews, Audrey Rayner, Brian Tait, Catherine Tait, Elizabeth Taylor & Avril Winship.

The meeting was attended in person by:- Len Adams, Nick Barr-Hamilton, Harry Ellis, Tara Etemadi, Eileen Fletcher, Ruth Forster, Doug Green, Maurice Hepworth, Michael Hepworth, Christine Hope, Lucille Hutchinson, Andrea Pritchard, Lynne Sadler, Leslie Stevens, Maurice Taylor, Marjorie Thomas, Gail Watson, Peter Watson, Lynn Wyatt & Terry Wyatt.

The meeting was attended virtually on Zoom by : - Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Clive Bowman, Maureen Bowman, Jo-Anne Cohrs, Pat Davis, Heather Livingstone, Barry Winstanley & Eve Winstanley.

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 28th October 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by Gail Watson & seconded by Christine Hope with 14 votes for & 4 abstentions.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Eve Winstanley, our Electoral Roll Officer, advised of the details provided to her by Lorraine Cook, our Administrator. We now have 116 names on the Electoral Roll, having lost 3 because of deaths, with no new names added.

6. Presentation of Reports (as circulated previously)

Nick told us that as these had been circulated previously, he did not intend to talk to each one. Terry & Chris had nothing further to add to their written report, & Nick was able to confirm that there were no reportable safeguarding issues. As we currently have no Deanery Synod representatives, Nick encouraged members to consider this role but confirmed that there had been no face-to-face meetings, & there

were no matters to raise. There was nothing further to add to the Treasurers Report. Nick thanked Lynn for her amazing hard work over her time in the role, & also commended her on her attempts to resign after she should have been able to step down! However, he was able to advise that Doug Green had now stepped forward & agreed to become Treasurer, with Lynn continuing to work alongside him for a time to ensure he was au fait with our accounting system. Doug's appointment as treasurer will be formally approved at the first PCC. Nick thanked God how He had moved peoples' hearts to be so generous over the year, especially when we did not know how much was to be needed or to be given. We have received grants & some capital to enable us to do everything we have this year, & monies from 3 trusts to complete I.T. work that has been necessary for the office to function correctly. Nick advised we had also received a large bequest from a will to the new annex & planning application. He gave thanks for the support of the mission of Christ.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years), (3 persons for 2 years)

Nick thanked those who have stood as PCC members for the last year. Lynn & Ruth continue to remain in role as non-elected officers and proposals had been received for Doug Green, Lucille Hutchinson, & Taraneh Etemadi to be elected from Maurice Taylor, Jo-Anne Cohrs, & Ruth Forster, seconded by Terry Wyatt, Ruth Forster & Jo-Anne Cohrs respectively. Nick reminded people that proposals could be accepted from the floor & Gail & Peter Watson were proposed by Eileen Fletcher & Chris Hope, seconded respectively by Andrea Pritchard & Harry Ellis. All proposals were carried unanimously. Leslie Stevens queried the length of time required when taking a break which will be confirmed. Thanking those that had stood this year Nick reminded PCC members that as church is now a registered charity they are classed as trustees. Prayer was offered for the new PCC.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

Nick thanked Charlie Forster for his work this year & told us he will send him an official letter and a gift. Lynn Wyatt proposed that we again formally ask Charlie Forster to be our external examiner. This was

seconded by Maurice Taylor & carried unanimously. Nick thanked Charlie for agreeing to stand.

9. Chairman's Report

Nick hoped that people had all had the chance to read his report previously circulated. He felt he had been honest, especially regarding his own personal struggles. He admitted that Rob had told him he must take a break, & he had felt the Lord's blessing & had returned energised. While at the moment he has no idea what format our usual ministries will take, he did comment that he felt we had made so many contacts in what we are currently doing & have done, such as the sandwiches, lunches & our Coffee, Cake & Company venture. He highlighted that we were to be allowed back into the church building officially next week (services of worship have been allowed in through the winter) & spoke of how some ministries could re-start to continue the immense work done over decades. He advised that we did have a blended option for services (live & on You Tube) as we currently only had a capacity for 30 people commenting that this was an example of how things are changing. Nick updated members on the progress of the Annex plans, advising that we have finally received planning permission, & that PCC are looking at the fundraising plans. He is hoping to have a Thanksgiving Day on Sunday 20th June. Covid has shown him we need so many things. Acknowledging that we have managed, it has highlighted we have a desperate need for a proper kitchen, but he also commented that there is genuine need in our parish, & there could be a missional opportunity there. Nick mentioned that it will be good to get church back to some sort of normality. Highlighting that we have a lot of money to raise he advised that there will be a pledge document going out to the whole parish before the end of June.

Thanking all the volunteers who were doing so much, & getting youth & children's work back going, he told us that he hoped & prayed that so many new people would also step up, commenting that we all step out in faith.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business & Nick thanked all who were in attendance for coming & those who were watching the live streaming. The meeting closed with the Grace at 20.35pm.



**ST GEORGE
FATFIELD**



ANNUAL REPORT BOOK 2021

**Published for the
Annual Parochial Meeting
On 10th May 2022**

Registered Charity 1190509

Parishioner Meeting & APCM Index

page number

3	AGENDA
4 - 8	APCM Trustees Annual Report
9 - 12	Vicar's Report, Biddick Academy Ministry & Schools' Ministry
13 - 14	Church Finance Statement For 2021 & World Giving
14	Administrator's Report
15	Electoral Roll
15	Service of Prayer For The Sick
16 - 17	Pastoral Team Report
17	Mothers' Union
18 - 19	Church Wardens' Report 2020-2021
20	Building Group
21 - 22	Washington Community Food Project
22	Meet & Eat
23	Coffee, Cake & Company
23	Safeguarding Report
24	Christmas Gift Bags
25	Cleaning Team
25 - 26	Toddlers' Report
27	Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service
28	Youth Group
29 - 32	Accounts : Income and Expenditure
33 - 36	Minutes Of The APCM Meeting 2021

Parishioner Meeting & APCM

Tuesday 10th May 2022

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening prayer and worship
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Opening prayer
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the last annual meeting on 11th May 2021
4. Matters arising
5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll
6. Presentation of Reports (circulated previously)
 - Wardens' report (including comment on fabric of the church)
 - Safeguarding
 - Deanery Synod report
 - Treasurer's report, including acceptance of accounts.
7. Elections
 - PCC (4 persons for 3 years)
8. Appointment of External Examiner
9. Chairman's report.
10. Any other business

APCM Trustees Annual Report

2021 Report & Accounts for the PCC at St George's Church, Fatfield

Aim and purposes

St George's Church Fatfield, Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish (and beyond) the whole mission and gospel of Christ in his church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to the Charity Commission guidance to exist for the public benefit as it carries out its aims and purposes. Within this document is a broad selection of the many activities that take place within the church carried out by volunteers and open to all people inside the parish and beyond.

The PCC works to enable as many people as possible to worship at St George's and become part of our living community. The PCC takes responsibility for important policies, including safeguarding, data protection, health and safety as well as others required by either the law or the diocese. The PCC aims to support the incumbent with suggestions on how to reach people across the parish from many different backgrounds as well as help guide the vision for the future and ensure good financial management of the resources available through:

- worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel and deepening faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
- provision of pastoral and practical care for people living in the parish. This includes supporting and serving as a food bank outpost, offering bereavement support, providing activities for young people, families and elderly people, including (but not limited to) a drop in, a lunch club, a toddler group, a youth club and an all age group craft and games group.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church building and there is a vision to extend the church building to better enable us to achieve this given the limitations of the existing building and its facilities.

Achievements and Performance

Within this document are some of the many ministries and services that the PCC supports throughout normal times, along with the way it supported the local community through the COVID-19 pandemic. On top of these regular activities, there are numerous one-off events that take place to enrich our community which have had to be radically different for the past 2 years given the restrictions imposed on places of worship by government.

In addition to our regular services and groups, we normally conduct numerous baptisms and weddings (although many of these continued to be postponed through 2021), as well as various one-off services such as our annual memorial service and our healing service.

Our Easter and Christmas services were also radically different, but Christmas did see us beginning to return to normality. The church continued to hold many funerals and burials in 2021 and the churchyard now has under 10 new plots remaining.

The church looks beyond its immediate needs in its world giving, where 10% of our free income is tithed to charities suggested by church members that also fit with our mission and vision.

Financial Review

The Financial review produced by our treasurer and independently examined is available later in this document. The PCC and incumbent are incredibly grateful to all who give financially to support the ministry and mission in the parish.

Reserves Policy

It is the aim of the PCC to maintain free reserves that cover 3 months of fixed costs to ensure essential bills can be paid in the event of an unexpected drop in income or unexpected costs. This Policy was ratified by the PCC on November 6th 2018.

Plans for future period

Our separate vision document contains plans for where we feel God calling us, but 2022 will see us continue to focus on COVID recovery and taking the church forward in a very changed world. The new

community annexe and café designs were granted planning permission and faculty, and a gift day in June saw over £120,000 pledged by the church family for which we are very thankful. With other historic funds and two grants awarded late in 2021 we now have 44% of the total needed and will press on with the fundraising effort through 2022. This plan to extend the building will better enable the Aims and Purpose of the church and its need has been made much more apparent through the COVID crisis. The annexe will also help us reduce our carbon footprint through the use of heat-pumps and photovoltaic technology. We will need to think more about the carbon footprint of our old church building in 2022. Inflation remains the biggest risk to the new annexe project.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity no. 1190509).

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the standing orders of the church (available from the church office or the incumbent) and complies with the Church Representation rules. The PCC includes, the Incumbent, the wardens, the readers and APA's, any members of C of E Synods on the electoral role along with those members elected at the APCM and those co-opted by the PCC.

The Full PCC (trustees) meets 9 times a year and makes decisions on matters of importance to the parish, agrees and implements required policies, sets the budget and monitors how funds are spent. New members receive an induction into the role of trusteeship and the functioning of the PCC.

The Buildings group is an authorised committee empowered to implement decisions of the PCC regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The Standing Committee has authorisation to transact urgent decisions between PCC meetings and report back at the next meeting. The Church office holds copies of approved policies, including Safeguarding, Safer Recruitment, Health & Safety, Lone Working, Social Media, Recruitment of Ex-offenders, GDPR compliant Privacy Notices and Staff Handbook with grievance procedures.

Volunteers

None of what takes place would occur without the dozens of volunteers that give of their time and effort each week. There are too many people who give sacrificially to mention them by name, but you work in service of Christ and we thank you for making St George's a vibrant and Christ centred church that serves so many different people.

Administrative information

St George's Church is found at Vigo Lane, Harraton, Washington NE38 9AH. It is an Anglican Church of England church within the diocese of Durham. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006).

PCC members who have served from the APCM of 2021 (11th May 2021) are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (Chair)

Wardens: Mrs Christine Hope

Readers: Mr Maurice Taylor & Mrs Pat Matthews

APAs: Mrs Eve Winstanley & Mrs Pat Davis

Deanery Synod: Mrs Lynn Wyatt

Elected Members

Ms Jo-Anne Cohrs

Ms Tara Etemadi

Mr Doug Green (Treasurer)

Mr Maurice Hepworth

Mrs Megan Hepworth

Mr Michael Hepworth

Mrs Lucille Hutchinson

Mrs Andrea Pritchard

Mrs Leslie Stevens

Mrs Catherine Tait

Mrs Gail Watson

Mr Peter Watson

Mrs Ruth Forster serves as the PCC Secretary.

Mrs Kate Grimwood serves as the elected Safeguarding officer with Mr Doug Green as the deputy safeguarding officer.

The PCC of St George's have adopted safeguarding guidance given by the Church of England, the House of Bishops and Durham Diocese. The Safeguarding policy is available on the church website, on the porch notice board and in the church office, along with contact details for relevant officers.

The Independent Examiner appointed at the APCM of 2021 is Mr Charlie Forster.

The day to day management of church activities is delegated to the Incumbent and the Church Wardens supported by the church administrator Mrs Lorraine Cook

Accounts Approved by the PCC on 5th April 2022 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Nick Barr-Hamilton (PCC Chair). They have been independently examined by Mr Charlie Forster.

Vicar's Report

January 2021 feels a long time ago now. It began in lockdown, but with the positive news that vaccine rollouts were accelerating fast. With the schools closing their doors once more, a small group of volunteers decided we would attempt to provide hot meals for young people while they could not eat at school. What was initially going to be just 2 weeks turned into a 3 month marathon. Working with WCFP, a toastie stall was set up outside (with strict COVID rules in place) and along with jacket potatoes and macaroni cheese, over 1500 lunches were provided to young people.

In April the team wanted something new to do and with lockdown restrictions easing, working with the Washington Community Food Project again, we were able to set up a community café 3 mornings a week. Despite being outdoors only, we were amazed at how popular it became. It was very evident that our area needed somewhere for isolated people to meet with others safely.

Easter was different to before, but at least this year we could celebrate it together. Both Good Friday and Easter Sunday afternoon were celebrated outdoors. Our outdoor services restarted on mothering Sunday and the morning service began to grow as more people began to feel safe. We continued to stream Sunday a.m. on YouTube for those who felt safer at home.

As rules eased further, the delivery lunch club that ran through the COVID crisis returned to the building and we received a formal food hygiene rating. Thanks to the hard work of our fantastic volunteers we were awarded 5 stars. The community café was allowed to move indoors and dropped down to twice a month with lunches now on the Wednesdays.

Numerous other ministries restarted and some normality began to return, but we continued with our outdoor afternoon service until late into the autumn, as some still felt safer outdoors. Children's work, toddlers, our bereavement support, Ukulele group, youth group and schools work all returned later in the year, but without a doubt we

have struggled with enough helpers for our work with young people.

This year, Christmas was much more normal, but out of choice we had an outdoor carol service on Christmas eve evening that was very well attended and we had two Carols by Candlelight services instead of one so people could socially distance if they wanted. 'Christmas on a Van' returned which proved very popular again (despite the lights breaking down half way through the final evening) but sadly the schools cancelled their services in church owing to government guidance. These were done online again.

Separately, our Community Annexe project continued to progress. Planning permission was granted in April and we had a gift day at church in June. I was genuinely humbled by the generosity of our church family as so many bought into the vision for this project to empower our mission and bless the local community in Jesus' name. With funds available, the trustees took the decision to press on with the RIBA stage 4 work that will see engineering and technical designs drawn up and a tender pack produced. By the end of the year, with grants and other funds, £294,000 had been pledged or given, about 43% of the total needed to complete the project.

We thank God for all the volunteers who have worked so hard to enable so much to take place and restart through 2021. Our building has been a hub of activity, at times so busy we have struggled to find times to hold funerals and again highlighting the need for additional inclusive space and proper facilities/kitchen. We have shown that we are Christians who love and will serve our local community and follow Christ's call no matter what the world throws at us.

We also thank God for the generosity of so many people, who enable us to pay fixed costs for the ministry we have done to serve young people, families and elderly, vulnerable and isolated people.

Through the year we have also had a number of sadnesses. Good friends have passed to be with the Lord and a number of us have lost friends and relatives in difficult circumstances. We pray that all who

grieve find hope and peace in the good news of Christ and his resurrection. We are having a memorial service for all who have lost loved ones in 2022, especially for those who were limited in their funeral plans because of COVID restrictions for the past 2 years.

From a personal perspective, all the work of the pandemic began to take its toll on me and I thank Rob and Margaret for all they do in alleviating some of the pressure that I have faced each week. I also thank Chris for all she does as our church warden and Terry who retired in June. I also thank our Readers and Pastoral workers as they began to take on more of the burden. There are too many others to thank by name, but I am humbled by all your sacrifice and give thanks to God for you and all you do, from cleaning, maintenance and administration, to music, worship and outreach. I am also grateful to Doug who took on the role of treasurer allowing Lynn to finally stand down, although she still helps with some of the finances in the office. Thank You All.

While there are still some who have not returned to church and we pray for them, we give thanks that there are many new faces at St George's and we continue to grow. We press on through 2022 in a very different world, one that contains much uncertainty and fear, but one where we can bring hope and life. We continue to serve people in need in many ways and pray that the Lord will continue to provide all that is necessary with both finance and people to ensure this continues.

Give thanks for:

- The Lord Jesus Christ, who is at the centre of our ministries, mission and people.
- The ways in which people serve and sacrifice time, effort and money to support the many ministries here in Christ's church.
- The finance and grants given towards the Community Annexe project.
- All of our volunteers and teams who do so much.
- Many answered prayers through the year.
- A real sense of family amongst the church as we serve together.

Pray for:

- Our mission and evangelism through the year.
- Nick and Lucy, as well as the church and the team covering when we take a Sabbatical in the Autumn.
- Many more grants to be awarded towards our community annexe project.
- A second church warden to support Chris and the church. New trustees to step up as others retire.
- More volunteers to take on some of the harder ministry roles with young people and on Sundays.
- That all of us would continue to have our focus on Jesus and trust his sovereignty and faithfulness, no matter how difficult it becomes.

Biddick Academy & Schools' Ministry

Give thanks for:

- Restarting the Biddick Academy lunch club
- Ongoing assemblies, Christmas services and work as a governor.
- A positive relationship with the heads and good relationships with staff and governors.
- Answered prayers

Pray for:

- That the 'Alpha' lunch club would become more stable.
- That assemblies would become more regular and for our links with the schools to develop again. E.g. lessons, visits to church, new ideas.
- The Christian faith to be seen as a good thing for young people and opportunities to share the gospel more widely with staff and students.
- Teachers, pupils and their families might come to salvation.
- Ongoing good relationships and positive influence as an Academy Trustee.

Church Finance Statement for 2021-22 & World Giving

2021 has been a very challenging year mainly due to the Covid Pandemic, with the Church having to respond to a range of financial issues. However, it is important that we praise God that he has guided us throughout the year and helped to maintain all aspects of Church life and indeed supported us in establishing some new opportunities. At the end of the year, we finished with a deficit of £3480. Earlier in the year I was sure that the deficit would be larger, mainly due to the different patterns of giving that developed over the year and the lack of income from some activities. But the stalwart members of this church and faith in God proved me wrong. As in the previous year, giving was down on the plate and some of the envelope giving was also down. But the donations, gift aid and other activities such as 'Cuppa, Cakes and Company' made up for that.

The financial breakdown for 2021 can be found on pages 29-32.

Thank God for the many pledges, gifts, grants and donations that have come into the church throughout 2021 for the new build project. God blessed us graciously through the Gift Day, where church members, friends and the local community showed their commitment to the project

This is my first year as treasurer and I would like to thank Lynn Wyatt for her dedication to the role for some years. I would like also to thank her, for the support in helping me to move into the role. However, she has not escaped totally as she is still assisting in collating and banking money and continuing to work on Gift Aid. I pray God will continue to bless her as she also explores other activities. God has graciously blessed us in having a dedicated treasure in Lynn.

World Giving

We gave 10% of our freewill giving to our three -year partners and to the charities put forward for one -year gifts. We were able to support Nightingales, Team for U, Connect, Biserica Crestina, Fundatia Stanca, Books & Bread For Kenya, Mission To Seafarers, Samaritan's Purse,

ODM and the Durham Lesotho Link. We are so thankful that God has put us in a position where we could again support these organisations.

Answers to prayer:

- For the faithfulness of God's people at St Georges in supporting the work in very difficult financial times.
- For the growing influence St Georges has had within the community over 2021

Items for Prayer:

- That people continue their giving to the church despite the 'cost of living crisis' that we are experiencing
- More grants and gifts towards the new build will continue to come into the church

In Christ's Name,
Doug Green - Treasurer

Administrator's Report

I am now in my third year of being the Administrator for St George's Church, and no two days are the same.

The role I have isn't just about the admin work, it is so much more and I am truly blessed to be a part of the St George's family.

I pray for everyone in our church family and that our vision of the annexe will soon be a reality.

I am so thankful for the support I receive in the office especially from Jo-Anne.

Lorraine Cook
Parish Administrator

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll has been updated and there are 118 names on the new Roll (Revised on 26th of April, 2022). This is a net increase of 2 names.

Four names were added during the year and following posting of public notices, no further names were added.

No one has been removed. Unfortunately 2 names removed by reason of death.

A copy of the new Roll is available in the church office.

Lorraine Cook pp
Electoral Roll Officer

Prayers For The Sick

It is good that we are now able to meet together in church for our Service of Prayer For The Sick on the third Friday of the month now that covid restrictions are lifted. However, our prayers continued throughout as our commitment to praying daily for those who ask for our prayers is always there, and many have sought our prayers during these difficult times.

We thank God for answered prayers and people have commented that when physical healing is not always possible, they have felt the comfort and support that prayer gives them.
May the Lord continue to bless us.

Pat Matthews

Pastoral Team Report

It is good we are getting back to normality after two extremely difficult years and able to socialise more, although understandably some people are still very cautious. It is possible to visit people in their homes again, so long as everyone concerned is comfortable with this.

Hospital visiting is still not allowed and we are not permitted to visit the residents in St Georges Care Home yet, but we have been delighted to welcome residents and staff to our coffee mornings and 10am service when they are able to come.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful team of volunteers who have served the community and our church family all the way through with coffee mornings and the lunch clubs and continue to do so.

There is so much pastoral care goes on in our daily lives – the church family caring for one another in so many different ways – the flesh and bones of God's love for us, and for these many blessings we thank God.

At the time of writing, we are sending our invitations and preparing for the Memorial Service of Thanksgiving on 8th May. Covid prevented us from holding this much-appreciated service for the past 2 years and we know that many people were unable to have a proper funeral for their loved one. We hope and pray that this will be a help and comfort to them.

During the lockdown our Bereavement Support Group team and members kept in touch with each other by phone, making sure everyone was coping. Then in September 2021 we were able to come together again in church, it was lovely to see each other and get back into our routine of fellowship and friendship and welcoming others. In February 2000 the pastoral team started a 6-session training programme, 'Exploring Pastoral Care' and by 3 sessions into the programme we went into lockdown. On the 22nd March 2022 we started up the course again. We started from session one and are adding an extra session to cover Prayer Ministry and this will be completed 17th May 2022.

We feel very encouraged to the response and enthusiasm of the attendees. We are running two sessions, one on an afternoon and another on the evening. We praise God for his hand in all of this and it's a privilege to share God's word and His care for us as we go through this programme. God has truly lifted us all up and is setting us on a path of discipleship to serve our church and community in the future.

May our God continue to support our pastoral work.

Pat Matthews and Eve Winstanley, on behalf of Pat Davies and Chris Hope.

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union restarted meetings in November 2021. Our members are few, only six at the moment. We lost one member during the pandemic. We would like to keep St George's Fatfield branch going, but we need more ladies to join us.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 1:15 pm.

We give thanks for:

- 118 years of Mothers' Union membership in this church
- All the people who have gone before us

We pray for:

- St George's Fatfield Branch's future in this place

Brenda Ridley (secretary)

Church Wardens' Report 2021-2022

Unbelievably, March 2022 marked the second anniversary of the first covid lockdown. We are living in a changed world, but thanks to the efforts of Nick, Lucy, and the faithful members of St. George's congregation, and most of all, the love of God Himself, as a Church we have weathered it, although sadly we have lost some of our brothers and sisters in Christ. As a Christian family, we have soldiered on.

Gradually, over the past twelve months, the services have been restored to pretty much what they used to be:-

The 10 am service - has been held in the building itself throughout the past year. Gradually the congregation has increased as people have grown more confident about entering the building. When required, we have all worn masks, whilst the seating has been sparse, and numbers limited according to government guidelines.

The 4 pm service - whilst throughout Spring and Summer of 2021, this service was held in the Church yard, and the weather was favourable. It wasn't rained off once! I'm not being trite when I say this is surely miraculous. This is the north east of England! It rains and often forgets to stop. In Autumn, with the weather being cooler and of course the evenings drawing in, we continued to keep the service at 4pm, and moved into the building itself. We have maintained a faithful, steady congregation.

The 8 am service - On Easter Sunday, for the first time since covid, the 8 am Holy Communion service was held. It is anticipated that it shall continue to be held once a month.

In August last year we had our parish inspection, with the Archdeacon, the Ven. Bob Cooper. Some actions are needed, but the report was highly favourable, with the Archdeacon stating we have a well run Church with good protocols in place.

As warden I have much to thank God and the congregation at St. George's for. I have received a heart-warming number of offers of support, for which I am grateful. Also, I have been ably assisted by

Eileen Fletcher (national treasure springs to mind) and I owe her a debt of gratitude. Also, until the beginning of this year, I was helped by Michael Hepworth, who for family reasons is unable to attend St. George's at present. He is hugely missed, not only by myself, but the congregation too.

Points for prayer and praise:

- Praise God that we can again meet in Church, maintain fellowship with one another, and worship Him.
- From our local community, I have received a significant number of favourable comments regarding our ministry. Praise God that we have strong local support.
- Thanks be to God for Nick's vision and dedication. May he and Lucy be blessed in their work.
- Whilst we thank God for the contributions so far received towards the building of the annex, we also pray that with His help and grace the momentum will keep on going.
- Praise God that the ministry and outreach of this Church is continuing, including the Monday and Friday Cuppa and Coffee mornings, the Bereavement Support Group, and the Mother and Toddler group, and ask for His blessing upon those who faithfully give their time. May these continue, and more volunteers come forward.

We are all far from perfect, but we do have a strong fellowship, and with Gods' blessing this will continue and reach out to others. Approximately 500 years ago, Henry the eighth's sixth and final Queen ended a letter with the words, 'God is a wonderful man.' I can think of no better way to conclude.

Love and blessings,
Chris Hope

Building Group

2021 has been practically identical to the previous year. The continued presence of the Coronavirus meant that the group was restricted to routine maintenance in the church building. Changing light bulbs, repairing broken taps etc.

The portable electrical appliances, all 70 of them, were tested under the PAT Regulations and were given a clean bill of health. As was the church Fire Alarm system which underwent a full service and test of its constituent components.

The one piece of new work was the installation of a support handrail to the steps outside the entrance to the church office.

As always, the hardest work of all was the maintenance of the church grounds. The tidy and orderly appearance of the graveyard and its surrounding areas is due to the effort put in by Group members Peter Watson and Nigel Heppell, ably supported by Norman Fatherley and John Adams. They have kept the church grounds looking lovely and this has led to favourable comments being made by visitors who themselves maintain individual graves.

The planned clean-up day of the church and the outside areas had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus, just as it was in 2020.

As was said in the previous year's report we hope that next year's report will contain a list of new jobs carried out by the Group.

Prayers of thanks: for the appreciation shown by the congregation for our work, and prayers also for the time and effort put in by the Group members who made it possible

Prayers of hope: that we continue the return to our former mode of operation and we also pray that there may be an interest shown by other members of the congregation in joining the Group to help us in our tasks.

Len Adams and Peter Watson

Washington Community Food Project Working With St. George's Church

Once again our thanks go to the people of St. George's for all the help and support we have received during 2021. Your donations of both cash and supplies have been very gratefully received by the volunteers of WCFP on behalf of the clients.

Our numbers continue to slowly increase, month on month, and our clientele is changing. We are now supporting many more families who are finding they just cannot manage on what they have coming in each week. Many are working in low paid jobs on zero hours contracts or are self-employed whose businesses have failed due to COVID. Most people are only seeking help for one or two weeks due to some unexpected expense, (washer break down, sickness) for which they had no reserve.

We continue to support several churches, homes and institutions with our surplus bread, cakes and fresh supplies. This food we receive from local stores would be destroyed if we did not take it and use it as we do.

Our outlet at St. George's is a much needed resource allowing people access to food parcels and advice without having to travel from the area and although demand is not great, you are offering a very valuable and helpful service to the local community. Several clients who have visited the Church for support then continue their support through the Galleries outlet.

Our 'surprise' (We have no idea until we do the after close collections from the shops what we will have) Christmas Eve delivery service of meat and vegetables relies heavily on members of the Church for drivers both to collect from stores and deliver out to clients. Speak to Peter, Gail, Brian or Terry if you want to hear more about our Christmas Eve service.

We give thanks for:

- The WCFP cannot thank the people of St. George's enough for all

the help and support we receive throughout the year and we send you all a great big thank you.

- We also thank God for the volunteers who work tirelessly to help anyone who comes in or contacts us in any way. No one ever leaves either empty handed or disappointed.
- Our prayer of thanks for all we receive from the people of Washington is constant and on-going.

We pray :

- that we use the resources we receive well and that God will continue to help us in our decision making, support us in our aims and help us to do this work in His name.

God bless.

Maureen Bowman

Secretary WCFP

April 2021-2022

Meet and Eat

We thank the team who ran meet and eat pre-covid and for all their advice when we took over. After we stopped delivering lunches last summer, we started meet and eat in church again. We now meet twice a month, with a new team of volunteers. We are lucky enough to have enough volunteers so we can have a rota of people cooking. We were very pleased to receive a 5 star hygiene rating from Sunderland council, although this has brought new challenges! We generally have between 15 to 20 guests each time. Due to the high number of volunteers we are now able to offer lunch twice a month.

We pray:

- that we continue to reach more people in the local community and that they will come to know Jesus Christ.

Keira Batchelor and the Team

Coffee, Cake and Company

Our twice weekly coffee mornings have been running for a year now. We have about 30 - 50 guests each time and that number has been fairly consistent over the year. Most of the cakes are either donations of food from businesses who have surplus stock or from people who kindly bake for us so the running costs are minimal. This means all the donations can be used in church. We have continued the link between church and the care home as residents have been able to come for coffee with their families and we have visitors from a residential home in Penshaw.

We give thanks for:

- all the volunteers who have helped make the coffee mornings so popular and for all the people in the local community who come.

We pray:

- that the annexe may come to fruition as CCC has shown there is a desire for a community cafe.

Keira Batchelor and the Team

Safeguarding

At St George's we take safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults seriously and have the relevant policies in place.

We give thanks for:

- Almighty God we give you thanks that You have kept us safe for yet another year
- No issues regarding Safeguarding
- Thank you that St George's is a safe place for those that seek peace.

We pray for:

- The plans for the annexe will come to fruition
- That all applications for grants will be favourably met and that the building work will commence as soon as possible

God Bless, Kate Grimwood

Christmas Gift Bags 2021

The return of our church's Nativity service successfully brought families together and, in a very uplifting way, helped spread the message that Christmas is a time, not only for gathering, but for giving and for joyous celebration.

In the light of this and the youngsters' spirited performances, the end of the service seemed a fitting time to hand out 60+ children's Christmas gift bags.

One by one, Lynn Green warmly greeted the little (and not so little) thespians & presented them with barely-decorated brown paper bags. Each one was age appropriate and filled with a Christmas story book, craft packs (snowflakes, tree ornaments, baubles and/or an origami church), charming knitted character, colourful 'slap' band, various craft materials, 'magic snake' cube toy or card game and confectionery - including chocolate! Brothers & sisters and visiting children from our growing church family were also invited to take a gift bag home.

It was hoped the paper bags and their contents would prompt smiles, encourage creativity as well as serve to remind them that Jesus, the most precious and miraculous gift given to us all, came from the humblest of beginnings - so whether a brown paper bag or a rough wooden manger - it's what's inside that really matters.

Many thanks to Jo-Anne, Mary Hill, the WCFP, BBK, all who helped or kindly donated items and to St George's church itself - not the prettiest of buildings, but just take a look at what's inside...

Points for prayer and praise:

- Please pray for further opportunities to draw more children into the church family
- Give thanks for the many special gifts our children have and pray that they learn to appreciate and enjoy sharing those gifts with each other
- Give thanks for the joy of giving

Andrea Pritchard

Cleaning Team

The team have restarted after the pandemic. We meet on Fridays at 2 pm for a couple of hours. We would welcome anyone with spare time to join us with hoovering, dusting, cleaning brasses and mopping floors etc. As the church is being used more, we need to keep up with these jobs.

We give thanks for:

- All those who have gone before us and taken on this duty

We pray for:

- More helpers will give of their time

Len, Betty, Avril and Brenda

Toddlers

Our Church Toddler group began to meet again in the Autumn of 2021. It is wonderful to be back serving the community in this way. We are now just using the main church room downstairs as our meeting place with the children certainly taking over the entire room every Tuesday morning. We have moved the toys downstairs into the corner of the room, and this is certainly helping with setting up the room quickly on a Tuesday morning.

Initially adults were asked to wear a mask when bringing along their children and we asked that only one adult per child to attend. Most adults have now removed their masks, but we continue to be vigilant with cleaning, handwashing, and the use of anti-bac.

We currently have 23 children on our list to attend and have now begun a waiting list because we are at capacity. We have five volunteers running the toddlers including myself.

The children continue to enjoy the opportunity to play with the toys alongside their adult and the volunteers for the first part of the session, we stop around 10.15 for a story followed by juice and biscuits. The children can then play again or join in the craft activity we plan each

week to link to the story we have shared. We finish the session with songs and finally our 'goodbye bubbles'.

In these few months we have been open it has been a delight to see the children grow in confidence, many of them when we first reopened were reluctant to leave the side of their adult. The impact of Covid and just being in their family bubble had meant that they hadn't really had the opportunity to play alongside other children or engage with adults beyond their immediate family – it has been a joy to be able to offer these opportunities.

The adults who come along have also benefitted from the time to chat over a cup of coffee/tea and we have been happy to listen and help where we can. I know that both the children and adults who attend really appreciate coming along to St George's Toddler group and it has been lovely seeing some of our toddler group now coming along to the church service on a Sunday, as well as attending other church outreach events.

We thank God and feel blessed that we are helping and making a difference to the lives of children and adults in the community.

We thank God for the opportunity to show the love of Jesus to others and would pray that they come to want to know more about him.

We continue to pray for the building project and impact that could have on further serving the young people in our community.

Finally, can I thank all who come along every Tuesday to serve our community in this way including the two 'young' men who lift out and put away the toys.

Lynn Green

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

The weekly Sunday Children's Group resumed in September of last year with Lucy and I leading two small groups of children in learning more about Jesus and the Christian faith. In total we probably have around 10 children who regularly attend the group.

The groups are split into two small groups with Lucy leading the older group (Key Stage 2 +) and me leading the younger group. We plan a passage/story from the bible to read and discuss each week, with the younger children often making and creating a craft linked to the story to take home and share with their parents hopefully stimulating further conversation. The older group often ask challenging questions about what they read and link events to current experiences, as they seek to understand their faith.

Opportunity is also given for our young people to share their concerns, successes, and joys. They have such busy lives!

We would love to see more children coming along to share their faith and learn more about Jesus together. We have had requests to find a way to take even younger children, those below 3 years of age but now with only Lucy and I leading it is proving to be a difficult request to meet – we are praying and hoping that we are joined by other volunteers who could help with children's Sunday groups.

We have much to be thankful for - The opportunity to include our children more actively in church life once again and begin their relationship with Jesus is amazing.

We are blessed with the children who do attend church regularly who want to know more about the Bible and certainly challenge us to think about our own faith.

Proverbs 22:6 - ***'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.'***

Please continue to pray for - More volunteers who would help with our children's groups – it is a great act of service but also helps grow your own faith.

Finally, I would ask you all to pray for each of our children and indeed all the children who live in our community who do not yet know Jesus.

Lynn Green

Youth Group Report

Circumstances collided this year to mean it felt right to begin an 11+ group away from Sundays for the first time in our membership of St George's. With only 2 Sunday morning children's leaders, and at least 5 regular youth attending, the most for a long time, and all of whom had demonstrated ably that children and youth can participate in a church meeting, we took the opportunity provided to start the group after school on a Thursday. Meeting for 2 hours, we have been reading and discussing Mark's gospel, involving drawing, lego and thinking about what is going on, chatting about life, apologetics and faith. Then we share dinner together and hopefully continue to build one another up in love as we spend time and get to know each other better each week. It has been a total joy to do this! Give thanks to the Lord that He saw fit to organise circumstances in this way.

Please pray...

We'd love to include some outdoor and other activities in our programme but so far this hasn't been possible for various reasons. These would be to continue to build relationships and aim to invite friends to, so we'd love for this to happen but need God to inspire and open doors.

We'd love the group to grow and remain friendly and accessible to incoming kids, both those graduating primary school and friends, so we all need open hearts and welcoming faces.

Mostly give thanks though, for this brilliant group of young people!

Lucy Barr-Hamilton

2021 Income and Expenditure—Independently Examined

Income	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
<u>Giving</u>			
Gift Aided	35383	33000	34556
HMRC tax refund	10890	9500	9880
Other Planned Giving	10161	12000	9423
Loose Plate	1362	6000	1131
Donations to Church	1119	2000	4548
PCC Fees	6100		6037
Hire of Rooms			126
transfer to bank			47
<u>Other Income</u>			
Photocopying	6	40	24
Refreshments	700	750	1007
Focus		187	38
Craft Days		300	
Memorial Service	250		
Coffee and Cakes	3570		
Wednesday lunches	416		
Quinquennial	7		
Commonwealth war graves	12	12	12
<u>Restricted Income</u>			
DDBF Assigned Fees	3289		4136
Fees Organist/Verger	594		380
Income to be repaid	88	2000	342
Meet & Eat/Boxing day	184		
All Age donations			38
Monday club		200	40
Specific grants	475		2425
Book sales (Lent & Christmas)	132		5
Advertising Focus			0
Faculty fees Graves	552		3150
Coalfields Grant			8112
Toddlers			250

Income (cont)	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Packed lunches	794		
Furlough from HMRC			2695
Refund	40		
Salary	773		
Comp screen	30		
smith Roddam	816		55
Total Church income	77743	65989	88457
 New build (Annexe Fund)	 127511	 15000	 35931
TOTAL INCOME	205254		124388
 <u>Expenditure</u>	 Actual 2021	 Budget 2021	 Actual 2020
<u>Church Costs</u>			
Parish Share	37500	41000	41000
Upkeep of Services	714	1000	387
Licence renewal		670	919
Technology	474		3379
 <u>Church Building Costs</u>			
Insurance	2547	2500	2507
Heating & Lighting	3935	4000	3871
Water	753	100	107
Boiler Service Contracts	935	840	968
Church Maintenance	872	2000	835
Fire Safety Maintenance		200	150
Cleaning	306	150	194
Churchyard Maintenance	314	100	84
 <u>Administration Costs</u>			
Administrator salary	10826	8440	8998
Telephone & Broadband	371	370	412
Photocopying	1042	400	467
Stationery & Postage	838	400	564
Web Page	179	55	50

Expenditure (cont.)	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
DDBF Assigned Costs	4936		2052
Donations Repaid	163	2000	768
Fees Organist, Verger	610		240
Sundry Office costs			59
Quinquennial		2200	
<u>Mission Costs</u>		200	
Monday Club			16
Tracts & Printing	110	500	227
Study Books			30
DBS checks	15	50	
Refreshments	766	700	185
Children's work & craft	63	750	594
course fees			72
WORLD GIVING	5020	6900	6290
lunches	681		1067
books	523		368
Faculty for graves	1409		2450
Vicar's expenses		500	555
Travel Expenses		500	
Pastoral team			60
headstone app	165		55
new tables/screens			1931
Training	94	200	
Christmas on the van	361		144
Sundry exp.	64		
<i>xfer to CAF (savings account)</i>	4200		
<u>Total Church Expenditure</u>	81223	* 76725	82055
 New Build Expenses	 5358		 13657
Total expenditure	86581		95712

Balance Sheet	Dec 31st 2021	Dec 31st 2020
Unrestricted Cash at Bank	18941	18214
Designated Funds	15000	15000
Restricted Funds (Annexe)	140226	22274
 Total Funds	 174167	 55488

* Expenditure for ongoing operations of the church before the non-cash expense (transfer) of £4200 to the CAF savings account was £77,023 for 2021, leaving us with a surplus from ongoing operations of £720 for 2021.

We are grateful to the Lord for the generosity of people and the prudence of those spending to enable us to remain in surplus during a year when many churches and charities have struggled significantly.

Inflationary pressures on fuel and other costs means we do pray that people will generously help us meet the challenges of the coming year.

These accounts were independently examined by Mr Charlie Forster and approved by the trustees (PCC) at their meeting on April 5th 2022.

Minutes of the APC Meeting
Held on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 7:30 pm
ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHONERS
(formerly known as the Vestry Meeting)

1. Opening Prayer & Worship

Nick opened by welcoming people to our first blended meeting, with people in church & several joining us online via Zoom. He commented that these are still strange circumstances for us all.

He read a passage from Psalm 128, the reading set for Evening Prayer tonight. He felt it was relevant to where we are in our lives at the moment but believed that the words were encouraging us to keep on serving God as we take the church forward. Nick finished by leading us in prayer, with other prayers offered by those in attendance, ending by commending both meetings into His hands.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by Gail Watson & seconded by Terry Wyatt, with 12 votes for & the remaining attendees abstaining.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Wardens

Nick thanked Terry Wyatt & Christine Hope for their work over the last few months. He spoke particularly of Terry, as he is to retire, finally, as a Warden after agreeing to stay on much longer during the pandemic, & thanked him for all he does, & had done, saying he had done so much. Christine added that she very much agreed with these sentiments. Nick then spoke of the role of Church Warden & what the responsibilities were, pointing out that just because Terry did many extra things these were because that was what he wanted to do, & were not necessarily an expected part of the role.

Nick told us he wanted to propose a formal vote of thanks to Terry, which was seconded by Ruth Forster & carried unanimously by the meeting. At the moment, there is no-one stepping into Terry's place, & Nick asked that we pray for Christine as she continues in her role & that He speaks to someone's heart & they come forward to be our other Church Warden.

The meeting closed with prayer at 19.55 p.m.

APCM

1. Opening Prayer

Nick opened the new meeting in prayer.

2. Apologies

Formal apologies were received from Sheila Beale, Ken Brown, Mary Gorog, Pat Matthews, Audrey Rayner, Brian Tait, Catherine Tait, Elizabeth Taylor & Avril Winship.

The meeting was attended in person by:- Len Adams, Nick Barr-Hamilton, Harry Ellis, Tara Etemadi, Eileen Fletcher, Ruth Forster, Doug Green, Maurice Hepworth, Michael Hepworth, Christine Hope, Lucille Hutchinson, Andrea Pritchard, Lynne Sadler, Leslie Stevens, Maurice Taylor, Marjorie Thomas, Gail Watson, Peter Watson, Lynn Wyatt & Terry Wyatt.

The meeting was attended virtually on Zoom by : - Lucy Barr-Hamilton, Clive Bowman, Maureen Bowman, Jo-Anne Cohrs, Pat Davis, Heather Livingstone, Barry Winstanley & Eve Winstanley.

3. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 28th October 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting had been published and were accepted as correct being proposed by Gail Watson & seconded by Christine Hope with 14 votes for & 4 abstentions.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

Eve Winstanley, our Electoral Roll Officer, advised of the details provided to her by Lorraine Cook, our Administrator. We now have 116 names on the Electoral Roll, having lost 3 because of deaths, with no new names added.

6. Presentation of Reports (as circulated previously)

Nick told us that as these had been circulated previously, he did not intend to talk to each one. Terry & Chris had nothing further to add to their written report, & Nick was able to confirm that there were no reportable safeguarding issues. As we currently have no Deanery Synod representatives, Nick encouraged members to consider this role but confirmed that there had been no face-to-face meetings, & there

were no matters to raise. There was nothing further to add to the Treasurers Report. Nick thanked Lynn for her amazing hard work over her time in the role, & also commended her on her attempts to resign after she should have been able to step down! However, he was able to advise that Doug Green had now stepped forward & agreed to become Treasurer, with Lynn continuing to work alongside him for a time to ensure he was au fait with our accounting system. Doug's appointment as treasurer will be formally approved at the first PCC. Nick thanked God how He had moved peoples' hearts to be so generous over the year, especially when we did not know how much was to be needed or to be given. We have received grants & some capital to enable us to do everything we have this year, & monies from 3 trusts to complete I.T. work that has been necessary for the office to function correctly. Nick advised we had also received a large bequest from a will to the new annex & planning application. He gave thanks for the support of the mission of Christ.

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years), (3 persons for 2 years)

Nick thanked those who have stood as PCC members for the last year. Lynn & Ruth continue to remain in role as non-elected officers and proposals had been received for Doug Green, Lucille Hutchinson, & Taraneh Etemadi to be elected from Maurice Taylor, Jo-Anne Cohrs, & Ruth Forster, seconded by Terry Wyatt, Ruth Forster & Jo-Anne Cohrs respectively. Nick reminded people that proposals could be accepted from the floor & Gail & Peter Watson were proposed by Eileen Fletcher & Chris Hope, seconded respectively by Andrea Pritchard & Harry Ellis. All proposals were carried unanimously. Leslie Stevens queried the length of time required when taking a break which will be confirmed. Thanking those that had stood this year Nick reminded PCC members that as church is now a registered charity they are classed as trustees. Prayer was offered for the new PCC.

8. Appointment of External Examiner

Nick thanked Charlie Forster for his work this year & told us he will send him an official letter and a gift. Lynn Wyatt proposed that we again formally ask Charlie Forster to be our external examiner. This was

seconded by Maurice Taylor & carried unanimously. Nick thanked Charlie for agreeing to stand.

9. Chairman's Report

Nick hoped that people had all had the chance to read his report previously circulated. He felt he had been honest, especially regarding his own personal struggles. He admitted that Rob had told him he must take a break, & he had felt the Lord's blessing & had returned energised. While at the moment he has no idea what format our usual ministries will take, he did comment that he felt we had made so many contacts in what we are currently doing & have done, such as the sandwiches, lunches & our Coffee, Cake & Company venture. He highlighted that we were to be allowed back into the church building officially next week (services of worship have been allowed in through the winter) & spoke of how some ministries could re-start to continue the immense work done over decades. He advised that we did have a blended option for services (live & on You Tube) as we currently only had a capacity for 30 people commenting that this was an example of how things are changing. Nick updated members on the progress of the Annex plans, advising that we have finally received planning permission, & that PCC are looking at the fundraising plans. He is hoping to have a Thanksgiving Day on Sunday 20th June. Covid has shown him we need so many things. Acknowledging that we have managed, it has highlighted we have a desperate need for a proper kitchen, but he also commented that there is genuine need in our parish, & there could be a missional opportunity there. Nick mentioned that it will be good to get church back to some sort of normality. Highlighting that we have a lot of money to raise he advised that there will be a pledge document going out to the whole parish before the end of June.

Thanking all the volunteers who were doing so much, & getting youth & children's work back going, he told us that he hoped & prayed that so many new people would also step up, commenting that we all step out in faith.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business & Nick thanked all who were in attendance for coming & those who were watching the live streaming. The meeting closed with the Grace at 20.35pm.

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12 April 2022

The Trustees
St George's Church Fatfield PCC
Vigo Lane
Harraton
Washington
NE38 9AH

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of St George's Church, Fatfield PCC

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the St George's Church, Fatfield PCC (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records.

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

Signed:
Name: Charles Dixon Forster

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Date: 12 April 2022