



**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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Income</b>	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
<b><u>Giving</u></b>			
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
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>			
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
<b><u>Restricted Income</u></b>			
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

<b>Income (cont)</b>	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Packed lunches	794		
Furlough from HMRC			2695
Refund	40		
Salary	773		
Comp screen	30		
smith Roddam	816		55
<b>Total Church income</b>	<b>77743</b>	65989	88457
 New build (Annexe Fund)	 127511	 15000	 35931
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>205254</b>		124388
 <b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	 Actual 2021	 Budget 2021	 Actual 2020
<b><u>Church Costs</u></b>			
Parish Share	37500	41000	41000
Upkeep of Services	714	1000	387
Licence renewal		670	919
Technology	474		3379
 <b><u>Church Building Costs</u></b>			
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
 <b><u>Administration Costs</u></b>			
Administrator salary	10826	8440	8998
Telephone & Broadband	371	370	412
Photocopying	1042	400	467
Stationery & Postage	838	400	564
Web Page	179	55	50

<b>Expenditure (cont.)</b>	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	
<b><u>Mission Costs</u></b>		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		
<b><u>Total Church Expenditure</u></b>	<b>81223</b>	<b>*</b> 76725	<b>82055</b>
 New Build Expenses	 5358		 13657
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>86581</b>		<b>95712</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Income</b>	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
<b><u>Giving</u></b>			
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
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>			
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
<b><u>Restricted Income</u></b>			
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

<b>Income (cont)</b>	Actual 2021	Budget 2021	Actual 2020
Packed lunches	794		
Furlough from HMRC			2695
Refund	40		
Salary	773		
Comp screen	30		
smith Roddam	816		55
<b>Total Church income</b>	<b>77743</b>	65989	88457
 New build (Annexe Fund)	 127511	 15000	 35931
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>205254</b>		124388
 <b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	 Actual 2021	 Budget 2021	 Actual 2020
<b><u>Church Costs</u></b>			
Parish Share	37500	41000	41000
Upkeep of Services	714	1000	387
Licence renewal		670	919
Technology	474		3379
 <b><u>Church Building Costs</u></b>			
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
 <b><u>Administration Costs</u></b>			
Administrator salary	10826	8440	8998
Telephone & Broadband	371	370	412
Photocopying	1042	400	467
Stationery & Postage	838	400	564
Web Page	179	55	50

<b>Expenditure (cont.)</b>	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	
<b><u>Mission Costs</u></b>		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		
<b><u>Total Church Expenditure</u></b>	<b>81223</b>	<b>*</b> 76725	<b>82055</b>
 New Build Expenses	 5358		 13657
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>86581</b>		<b>95712</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

**10 Swinhope, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9HR**  
**Phone: 0191 4194813 | Mobile: 07453 888117 | email:**  
**c.dforster@hotmail.co.uk**  
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

**10 Swinhope, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 9HR**

**Phone: 0191 4194813 | Mobile: 07453 888117 | email:**

**c.dforster@hotmail.co.uk**

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

Date: 12 April 2022