

Charity number: 1190509

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

UNAUDITED

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

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

Trustees' Report

Independent Examiner's Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Statement of Cash Flows

Notes to the Financial Statements

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

Church Reports

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

Trustees.

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

Charity registered number. 1190509

Principle office

Vigo Lane
Harraton,
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE38 9AH

Secretary

Mrs Ruth Forster

Independent Examiner.

Mr CF Forster
10 Swinhope,
Rickleton
Washington
NE38 9HR

Bankers

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

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

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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

Aim and purposes

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

Objectives and activities

● Policies and objectives

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

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

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

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

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

● Volunteers

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

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

Objectives and activities (continued)

● **Safeguarding**

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

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

Achievements and performance

● **Main achievements of the Charity**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

TRUSTEES' REPORT (Cont.)

FOR: THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

● Going concern

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

● Reserves policy

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

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

● Risk management

The Trustees are responsible for risk management within the church.

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

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

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

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

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

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

● **Financial review for the year**

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

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

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

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

Reference to the Table accounts is shown later in the report

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

Doug Green (Treasurer)

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

Structure, governance and management

● **Constitution**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

● **Financial risk management**

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

● **Administration**

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

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

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

Plans for future periods

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

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

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

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

Independent examination

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

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

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

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

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

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

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

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

Terry Wyatt & Christine Hope

Church Wardens

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

1 March 2026

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

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

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

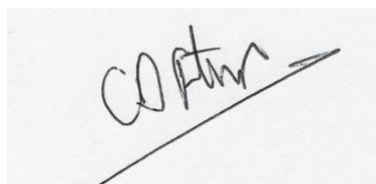
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD Forster', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Signed:

Name: Charles Dixon Forster

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

Date: 1 March 2026

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH FATFIELD

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

Income

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

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

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025**

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

Ann Loan	3142		
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Mission

Costs

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

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

The Table

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

66051

40520

Parishioner Meeting & APCM Sunday 26th April 2026

AGENDA

Annual Meeting of Parishioners (formerly known as Vestry Meeting)

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

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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

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

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

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, FATFIELD

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

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

1 Opening Prayer & Worship

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

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

1. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Election of Wardens

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

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Opening Prayer

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

2. Apologies

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

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

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

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

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

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of the Electoral Roll

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

6. Presentation of Reports, (as circulated previously)

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

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

7. Elections

PCC – (4 persons for 3 years)

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

8. Appointment of External Examiner

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

9. Chairman's Report

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

10. Any Other Business

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

Church Warden's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

God bless all of you – Terry and Chris.

Vacancy Standing Committee

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

Vacancy Standing Committee

Schools Ministry

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

Meat & Eat

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

Men's Hub Report

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

Rob

Youth Film Club

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

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

Ross and Ellen Kendall

The Craft and Chatter Group

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

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

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

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

Denise Young

World Giving

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

1 year cycle

Tearfund
Christians Against Poverty
Open Doors
Samaritans Purse

Each to received £330

3 year cycle

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

Each received £660.

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

In Christ's Name, Doug Green – Treasurer

Cuppa, cake and company (CCC)

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

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

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

We give thanks for:

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

We pray for:

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

Gail Watson and the CCC Teams

Safeguarding

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

We give thanks for:

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

We pray for:

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

Doug Green

Toddlers

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

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

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

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

We give thanks for:

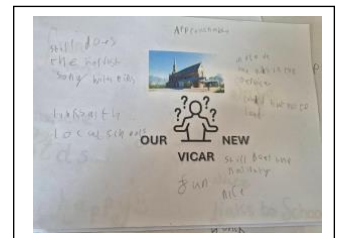
- Our volunteers who give up their time so readily to serve the community.
- The opportunities this ministry gives us to bring people/children to church.
- The blessings we receive in serving God in this way.

We pray for:

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

Children's Group Sunday 10 am Service

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



- The children who regularly attend the groups, their questions and growing faith
- The many blessings children's ministry brings.
- The parents/grandparents and other adults who bring children to church where they can meet with Jesus.

- Kathryn and I, that we may be bold and loving in sharing the word of God with the children.
- More volunteers to join Kathryn and I, in supporting the children coming to faith.
- The children who come to St George's – that they will carry the message of Jesus into all aspects of their lives.
- That the Lord will send us a new vicar.

Electoral Roll

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

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

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

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

Pastoral Team Report & Prayers For The Sick

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

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

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

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

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

We continue to have links with: -

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

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

Building Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

We give thanks for:

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

We pray for:

The health of the group members who are all over 70

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

Cleaning Team

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

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

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

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

We give thanks for:

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

We pray for:

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

Parish Administrator's Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Youth Group

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

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

We are very thankful for:

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

Pray for:

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

Washington Community Food Project

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nicola Jobson
WCFP Chair

Ladies Group Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Café Manager Report

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

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

I give thanks for:

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

I pray for:

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