

7th April 2019



Annual Report and Accounts for the
Parochial Church Council of St George's,
Jesmond, for the year ended 31st
December 2018

Parochial Church Council of St George's Jesmond

Registered Charity No. 1132758

Aim and purposes

St George's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent for the time being in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church buildings and property.

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Agenda

1. Annual Meeting of Parishioners

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

2. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

- 2.1. Appointment of Secretary
- 2.2. Consideration of Electoral Roll
- 2.3. Election to Deanery Synod
- 2.4. Election to PCC
- 2.5. PCC Secretary's Report
- 2.6. Churchwarden's Report including Fabric, Goods, and Ornaments
- 2.7. Appointment of Sidespeople
- 2.8. Annual Report on Financial Affairs and Audited Accounts
- 2.9. Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 2.10. Deanery Synod Report
- 2.11. Safeguarding and Reaffirmation of Policy
- 2.12. Sub-committee Reports
 - 2.12.1. Buildings and Grounds
 - 2.12.2. Children and Young People
 - 2.12.3. LDS
 - 2.12.4. Finance
- 2.13. Group Reports
 - 2.13.1. Choir
 - 2.13.2. Bells
 - 2.13.3. Friends
- 2.14. Consideration of other matters of parochial or general church interest
- 2.15. Chairperson's Remarks
- 2.16. Closing Prayer

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday 15th April 2018

1.	Welcome	Brian Hurst, as Chair, welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 10.52am
2.	Appointment of Secretary	Catherine Laidler was appointed as secretary for the Meeting.
3.	Election of Churchwardens	<p>The Chair had received two nominations:</p> <p>Michael de la Hunt, proposed by Enid Pearson, seconded by Lesley Cave</p> <p>Louise Chapman, proposed by Lesley Cave, seconded by Janet Ross</p> <p>There were no other nominations so both nominees were appointed.</p> <p>It was noted that Lesley Cave would be stepping down as churchwarden in 2 weeks' time and there would an opportunity to thank her for her work then.</p>

Minutes of the APCM held on Sunday 15th April 2018

1.	Appointment of Secretary	Catherine Laidler was appointed as secretary for the Meeting.
2.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies were received from 10 parishioners.
3.	Electoral Roll report	There were 225 parishioners on the electoral roll. The Electoral Roll report had been prepared by the Electoral Roll Officer, Catherine Laidler. There were no questions or additions.
4.	Financial Reports	<p>Caroline Field presented the accounts for the last year. The main points were:</p> <p>Income</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There were three kinds of funds: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Unrestricted Fund – could be used for any purpose set out by the PCC b) Restricted Fund – could only be used for the purpose specified by the donor c) Endowment Fund – the PCC had access to the interest but not the capital 2) Donations and Legacies covered voluntary income. Income from collections was higher in 2017 due to events like the Floodlighting, however there had been no gift day in 2017. The 2018 Gift Day would take place on Saturday 21st April. 3) Income from the hire of the Church Hall and the Church had increased by approximately £5,000 compared to 2016. 4) Close House had been let for the whole year so property income had increased. 5) The income from fees had increased and the selling of advertising space in the Lance had also meant an increase in income. 6) Overall, income was slightly down on last year. <p>Expenditure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) The Parish Share had increased by over £6,000 compared to last year. 8) There had been spending on church activities in order to raise funds 9) Charitable donations covered money given to the charities supported by the church 10) Expenditure on Church Maintenance had included the floodlighting

	<p>11) Spending on the Parish Magazine was reduced compared to the previous year</p> <p>12) Running costs of the Church Hall had increased</p> <p>13) £4,000 had been spent on professional fees related to the whole site plan compared to £10,000 in 2016.</p> <p>14) There had been no mission weekend in 2017</p> <p>15) Office costs and salary were comparable to 2016</p> <p>16) Bank Charges had decreased.</p> <p>Assets and Funds</p> <p>17) Tangible assets included the Buildings and fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>18) The value of the buildings had not changed.</p> <p>19) Current assets included debtors, gift aid and cash in hand and at bank</p> <p>20) Net assets were represented by funds.</p> <p>21) The Buildings fund was a designated fund, but the money could be re-designated to spend elsewhere.</p> <p>22) The General Fund was the general working fund of the church</p> <p>23) Fabric was the largest of the restricted funds; it included grants to cover the costs of the floodlighting</p> <p>24) The Endowment fund was the income for the Garden of Remembrance. It was re-allocated to the heating in 2017</p> <p>Overall, there was a deficit of £7,500.</p> <p>There were no questions and the parishioners were happy to receive the accounts.</p> <p>Caroline was thanked for her explanation of the accounts and for all her hard work throughout the year. Thanks were also extended to John.</p>	
5..	Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the church	
	The report was included in the pack; there were no questions or additions. The parishioners were happy to receive the report. .	
6.	Deanery Synod Report	
	There was no report prepared.	
7.	Election to Parochial Church Council	
	<p>Margaret Baron, Louise Chapman and David Cullingford had all come to the end of their term in office. In addition, Derek Avery would be stepping down as he prepared for ordination. Therefore there were four vacancies. Four nominations had been received:</p> <p>Bill Apedaile was proposed by Lesley Cave and seconded by Barbara Peacock</p> <p>Alison Mattinson was proposed by Mike de la Hunt and seconded by Enid Pearson</p> <p>Enid Pearson was proposed by Lesley Cave and seconded by Barbara Peacock</p> <p>Cyril Winskell was proposed by Vera Rodgers and seconded by Patricia Winskell</p> <p>They were all elected to the PCC and were thanked for being willing to serve.</p>	
8.	Appointment of Sidesmen	
	The list of sidespersons had been included in the pack and parishioners were happy to appoint. An error in one of the names listed - Toby Pedworth not Toby Bedworth - was noted.	
9..	Appointment of Independent Auditor	
	John Oswald would continue in this position and was thanked in advance for his work in the coming year.	

10.	<p>Reaffirmation of Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Safeguarding Policy was included in the pack and was brought to the meeting to show that the parish has a safeguarding policy. Parishioners were happy to reaffirm the policy. 	
11.	<p>PCC Secretary Report</p> <p>Catherine Laidler took over as PCC secretary from Susan Steadman. The report was included in the pack; there were no questions or additions. The parishioners were happy to receive the report. Catherine Laidler was thanked for producing the report and being secretary.</p>	
12.	<p>Churchwardens' Report</p> <p>The report was included in the pack; there were no questions or additions. The parishioners were happy to receive the report.</p>	
13.	<p>Vicar's Report</p> <p>The report was included in the pack; there were no questions or additions. The parishioners were happy to receive the report. Thanks were extended to all who volunteered.</p>	
14.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>i. Sub committee Reports</p> <p>Questions and comments were invited on the sub-committee reports.</p> <p>Learning, Discipleship and Service Committee</p> <p>The committee would be taking forward the Diocesan initiative on Leading Your Church into Growth. There would also be a Bishops Mission pathway weekend in September.</p> <p>Buildings and Grounds</p> <p>The issue of the way in which work would be carried out on the Whole Site Plan was queried since a fundraising committee should have been set up in July but was postponed due to issues with planning. The most cost effective route would be chosen, which may involve doing all necessary work at the same time.</p> <p>Choir Report</p> <p>The organ would shortly require a lot of work. There were a number of small pipes that had collapsed and other issues that required investigation. The expected cost was thought to be around £200,000. There was no organ fund but it may be possible to apply for grants. The last time major organ work was done was 1993.</p> <p>Bell Ringers Report</p> <p>There were no additions to the report but the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The team had entered the Durham and Newcastle 6 Bell striking competition and qualified for the final which would take place on 5th May between 2pm and 5pm. <p>They had rung a quarter peal on the centenary of the death in the Great War of Corporal Reginald Eaton of Forsyth Road, who was a St George's Ringer.</p> <p>ii. Whole Site Plan Update</p> <p>The PCC was not sure that the congregation had had a recent update on the progress of the Whole Site Plan so it had been decided to present one today.</p> <p>The report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee had ended on a gloomy note with regards to Planning. In February, it had been indicated that the application for the Church Extension would be recommended for approval but it was then rejected due to the trees. There had been several meetings about the Hall arguing in support of the original scheme and also trying to come up with another plan. If the recommendation was to reject the proposal for the Hall, a decision on whether to appeal or not would be taken. There would a joint meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Steering Group in May to discuss the current situation and make</p>	

some recommendations. The next meeting of the council Planning Committee was scheduled for 1st June.

Questions were received regarding the potential loss of hall income and handling the competing demands of organ repairs and Building work. There was currently no plan with regards to hall income as there was not yet a plan for how the work to be carried out. The competing demands of organ repairs and Building work would be discussed by the PCC.

iii. **Safeguarding**

Several people would need their DBS clearance renewed over the next few months.

iv. **Data Consent Forms**

There was Data Consent Form attached to the back of each pack. Parishioners were encouraged to complete the form and return it to the Parish Office.

v. **Gift Day**

A gift day would be held on Saturday 21st April. This was an opportunity for people to respond with a cash gift in thanks for St George's and the aim was to help reduce the deficit in the budget.

Signed: Revd Canon Brian Hurst (Chair) _____

The Vicar's Report

At the beginning of the year two members of the PCC joined me on a three day training conference on the theme of Leading Your Church into Growth. This is a process which is very much in tune with the Diocesan priorities Growing Church and Bringing Hope, and our presence there was in response to the Bishop's invitation to this parish to engage in this process.

After a special meeting, the PCC very quickly got on board and a small steering group was appointed to press on with the work by planning two Saturday morning consultations for the congregation. These were very well attended and the level of engagement, energy and discussion was encouraging. The unspoken text throughout LYCiG is, "if you're not leading your church into growth where are you leading it?!" But although, as I wrote in last year's report, growth is more than just numbers – it is about numbers and we can be rightly concerned that we are not supplanting those who have worshipped and served and given over very many years as quickly as they are going to heaven.

Talking of numbers, we were delighted to welcome 308 people to our worship on Easter Day and 204 Communicants on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day; there were 8 Weddings during the course of the year; and on a "normal" Sunday on average 128 adults and 12 under sixteen-year-olds gathered for worship.

But, growth is also and perhaps more urgently about growing our discipleship and growing our commitment to the local community and wider world. The PCC has been sifting through the ideas generated at our Saturday morning consultations and I hope by the time our new PCC is formed a set of priorities will have been agreed, which I am sure it will want to quickly share with the wider congregation.

Our discipleship and learning were certainly encouraged during the Lent course which was jointly led by the clergy team and members of the congregation. The theme 'Remember that you are but dust' used the events of Holy Week to reflect upon our own mortality. The themes, Grief, Ready to die, Preparing for death, Dying and What now were well presented and well received and encouraged a deep level of conversation around the tables. One week was postponed because of snow and awful weather – this was the week to be co-led by the guest speaker Kathryn Mannix, author of "With the end in Mind" and perhaps the rearranged date helped to draw in a large gathering not only from our own congregation but from further afield, perhaps especially from the School of Medical Education.

That sort of partnership working was also in evidence during the Bishop's Mission Weekend in September and various groups working well with the LDS sub-committee in planning and delivering the Big Friendly Gathering. Despite the further inclement weather, which forced the whole event inside –and therefore we missed out on some of the impact to folks passing by which our Spring Fete clearly has – it was none the less a great success: and the memory of Irish dancers dancing in church accompanied by the Newcastle Concert Band will live on in the memory. We were also glad to be

joined during the weekend by the recently appointed Bishop of Lancaster, Jill Duff who was seen sitting on the floor talking to toddlers and parents at a special Little Saints session.

During Lent our worship was enriched by hearing about Service offered through West End Refugee Service, Jesmond Street Pastors, Children Society, Together Newcastle and St Oswald's Hospice. Our reflections, 'Christ through the eyes of great artists', during Holy Week and Easter were led by Canon Peter Dodd.

St George's Patronal Festival was celebrated with Choral Evensong at which the preacher was Canon Ian Flintoft the Director of Discipleship and Ministry for Mission and former Curate of St George's. The weekend was also notable because of an enormously generous response to the Gift Day appeal, which, raising around £5,500 including Gift Aid, plugged a huge gap in a deficit budget. Such "one-off" appeals along with the dipping into reserves, of course, cannot be seen as a confident way forward for the parish and I am sure we will hear more on this in the Treasurer's report.

The 130th Festival of Consecration was celebrated in October and the president and preacher on that significant day was Bishop Mark Tanner, the Bishop of Berwick.

We were delighted to welcome Stephanie Keates at Petertide as our new curate. Stephanie trained at the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield in West Yorkshire and was ordained in the Cathedral on Saturday 30th June and received a typically warm St George's welcome on the Sunday evening at Evensong.

The ministry of the parish was also enriched with the renewal of the Pastoral Visiting Team, which was commissioned at the beginning of September; and the team has been steadily visiting the sick and bereaved when they have been told of particular situations. We are especially grateful to Joan Grenfell who acts as the co-ordinator of this team.

Toward the end of the year we said farewell to our Parish Secretary who had been with us for about 13 months and had provided a warm welcome to many callers to the Parish Office. We are immensely grateful to Lucy Norris for stepping into the breach on a short-term basis and to Victoria Mattinson for looking after the weekly pew sheet and setting such a high standard, others also stepped up to the mark at our busiest time of year, ensuring life continued fairly normally.

In giving thanks for the gifts and talents of very many people offered week in and week out in so many different ways we record our gratitude especially to our churchwardens, Mike de la Hunt and Louise Chapman for their calm and efficient ministry and care across the year.

The Reverend Canon Brian Hurst

Electoral Roll Report

The Electoral Roll has now been renewed. It was completed on 21st March 2019.

The roll contains 199 names; 100 are resident in the parish and 99 are non-resident.

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

Catherine Laidler, Electoral Roll Officer

Parochial Church Council Report

The Parochial Church Council has met on six occasions since the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2018. At the meeting new members Bill Apedaile, Alison Mattinson, Enid Pearson and Cyril Winskell were elected to the PCC to serve three years on the council. The Deanery Synod Representatives were Izzy McDonald-Booth, Lucy Norris, Sue Vernon and Rosemary Waters. Below are the main points of each meeting:

May 2018

The new members elected to the PCC at the Annual Meeting were welcomed and Izzy McDonald-Booth and Sue Vernon were elected to the Standing Committee. The PCC received a briefing on the Leading Your Church into Growth Programme, setting out the steps involved. The PCC resolved to commit to adopting the programme and following it over many months. The PCC also approved the Data Privacy Notice and agreed that Standing Committee should set up a task and finish group to look at implementing the Policy and appoint a Data Compliance Officer. Bill Apedaile updated the PCC on the Whole Site Project and the PCC agreed to approve submission the Diocesan Advisory Committee if Planning Permission was obtained.

July 2018

The PCC was updated on GDPR. The task and finish group had been set up and the Parish Secretary had been asked to audit all files on the computer and then the paper files. There was also an update on Leading Your Church into Growth. It was agreed to hold two large sessions for the whole congregation and that a small steering group would be set up.

September 2018

The PCC received an update on GDPR. Mary White had agreed to act as Data Compliance Officer on a trial basis for a year from January 2019. She would carry out an audit and report to the PCC.

A steering group had been established for Leading your Church into Growth and two sessions for the whole congregation had been organised.

An update on the Whole Site Plan was presented by Bill Apedaile. The plans for the Church Hall had not received planning permission. The PCC agreed that the application should proceed to appeal. Bill and Alan Johnson were thanked for their continued work on the project.

November 2018

The two sessions for the whole congregation on Leading your Church into Growth had been held and were considered successful and Izzy, Stephanie, Joan, Kay and Lisa were thanked for their hard work. There would be an extra meeting of the PCC in late November to discuss the feedback from the sessions.

The PCC received and discussed a Statement of Need from the Children and Young People's Committee for a Children, Young People and Family post. The PCC agreed to support the idea and tasked the Children and Young People's committee with exploring possible sources of funding.

The use of paper cups at Parish Coffee was discussed and it was agreed that any paper cups used at Parish Coffee should be fully compostable.

February 2019

The PCC discussed the budget for Mission Giving for 2018 and also received a proposal from the Finance Committee to invest the church funds in three investment funds, all of which were based on charities and considered ethical. The PCC discussed and agreed to the investment of funds.

There was an update on the Whole Site Plan. Planning Permission for the Church Extension would be sought soon after the meeting and the appeal with regards to the Church Hall was due to be submitted on Wednesday 13th February.

Feedback from the LYCIG session the PCC held in late November to review the feedback from the whole congregation sessions was circulated. It included feedback from Smarties and Sunday Knights. There would be a further PCC session in April to discuss the feedback on Culture, to renew the church vision and to review structures.

Murray Waldron's term of office will expire at the Annual Meeting and Lucy Norris is also stepping down from the PCC and Deanery Synod as she prepares to take up a new job in Birmingham. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all retiring and continuing PCC members for their contributions and hard work and to send prayers and good wishes to Lucy as she starts her new adventure.

Catherine Laidler, PCC Secretary

Churchwardens Report

This has been a year of developments and challenges and we thank you all for your active involvement, interest and support for our ongoing and planned activities.

Our associate priest, Pauline Pearson, has been seconded for six months to St Columba's in Wideopen while continuing to work with our clergy and teams at St George's and St Hilda's. We were pleased to give her publicly our thanks and best wishes for a happy and successful secondment following her performance at the annual Pantomime in February. As well as her ongoing and unstinting service to the parish, many of us appreciated her thoughtful Remembrance event held to mark the 100th anniversary of the Armistice in November and we thank James for his moving contribution in playing the Last Post and Reveille on his trumpet.

This year we welcomed Stephanie Keates as curate, with a celebration of her benefice at Choral Evensong on 1st July 2018, followed by a Parish Supper in the Church Hall. Stephanie has already made a great impact in the St George's community and we enjoy her presence, participation and support at our services and events. We look forward to the return of Derek Avery to the Parish as a curate following his ordination as deacon this summer. Congratulations also to Joan Grenfell who was commissioned as an Anna Chaplain focussing on the spiritual care of the elderly at a service in the Cathedral on 17th February, which several of us were pleased to attend.

Suzanne Howie resigned as Parish Secretary in November 2018 and we wish her well in the future. Many thanks to Lucy who covered the office responsibilities over the busy Christmas season and to Victoria for producing the notice sheets until Jonathan took up the post in January. Jonathan has settled in quickly, proving himself to be a quick learner and finding his way around the intricacies of the parish. We thank all those who assist with the administration of St George's with a particular mention to Hazel and the communications team for a lot of hard work this year in formulating and leading the implementation of our Data Protection Policy, developing our online communications and revamping 'The Lance' parish magazine.

We have continued to enjoy a programme of regular social events in the local community, including the Spring Fete and Christmas Market and the annual Pantomime which drew in new faces including children and young people outside our regular congregation. This year also saw a very successful new Big Friendly Gathering event for the local community which was held indoors owing to poor weather conditions. It was a popular afternoon of music, dance and children's activities closing with the highlight of an impromptu combined performance of the Irish Dancers and the Newcastle Concert Band.

We are also grateful to the Friends of St George whose fund-raising activities and inspired events, including an amazing performance by the 'Darling Dollies' in March, make such an entertaining and enjoyable contribution to parish life and raise the profile of St George's in the community.

The Percy Hedley Christmas Carol Service held in early December with the Percy Hedley Signing Choir and the Newcastle Concert Band was a moving event and included the lighting of the spectacular Christmas tree on the green, generously donated by the Watson Family Trust for the enjoyment of the local community. We also saw the comeback of the Panto Band, who entertained us at the opening of the Christmas Market and performed an accomplished overture to the pantomime at Candlemas. They are due to appear again at the Spring Fete. We hope that the band will continue to flourish as an asset and opportunity to perform, particularly for our younger players.

Regular community activities held in the Church Hall continue to be an important part of parish life. These include Little Saints, Little Kickers, Lunch Club, Pilates and Dance, Art Groups, Friday Café and the Singing group. The Beavers troop has become incredibly popular under the inspired leadership of Sarah and her helpers and a Cub Scout group has been established this year. We are delighted to see the Beavers and Cubs with their families in church on special occasions and hope to see more of them in the future.

A lot of ongoing work continues to be done to maintain the fabric of the Church and Hall. We are encouraged that the Church extension has passed the first hurdle of Council planning permission with thanks to all those who have worked so hard to achieve this milestone, but there is still much to be done. Planning permission for the proposed alterations of the church Hall was not granted and we have lodged an appeal (see Building and Grounds Committee Report for further details). We recognise that there are diverse views about the project, but we hope that with compromise and cooperation we can discern a way to develop the facilities of the Church and the Hall to secure the long-term future of St George's as a well-supported, community church.

This past year will also be remembered for the sad loss of some much-loved members of the Parish, noting in particular, Doreen Woodhouse, who had worshipped and enthusiastically participated at St George's for many years, Jess Fairs and Anne Clinch. They are sadly missed but leave us with fond memories of the warmth of their friendship, lively personalities and their considerable contributions to the fellowship and life of our church.

The Congregation have continued to make very generous donations; of hand knitted items to the GfA Syrian Refugee appeal, to the West End Refugee Service and a very large contribution to the Newcastle West End Food Bank in response to their appeal for donations over the school holidays when demand reaches its peak. We have also supported several local and national charities through mission giving donations made through the LDS committee, we have an ongoing fund-raising link with Christian Aid projects and continue to support the Children's Society through collection boxes.

There is always a very long list of those whom we need to thank for their continuing work and support and far too many to mention everyone by name. We hope the lack of a specific mention will not make anyone feel unappreciated.

Firstly, we give our thanks to Brian and all our clergy team and those engaged in Ministry including Pauline during her secondment to St Columba's and we look forward to her speedy return.

We thank Lesley for her three years of cheerful, welcoming, friendly and efficient service as a popular churchwarden through a busy time of considerable change, including the interregnum.

We thank all those who help with the smooth running of our services including Barbara for undertaking the verging requirements of the church, looking after the church day to day, welcoming visitors at so many services, events, concerts and Heritage Open Days and appreciate her ongoing support to the churchwardens. We give thanks to Frederick for his mastery of the organ and all things musical, to our sacristans Monica and Doreen, to all the sides-persons who provide such an important welcome to all at the three Sunday services, to all the lay assistants, Sunday school and Smarties leaders, to the choir, bell ringers, servers, readers, intercessors, pastoral care team, drivers and coffee people. We offer special thanks to Helen and to all those who support the activities for the children and young people, including Sunday School, Smarties and Sunday Knights and ensure their safety and well-being. Without them, the children's highly valued involvement and contribution to our community and worship would not be possible. We would also like to offer special thanks to Vera and the flower team for the magnificent flower displays admired by all and always complimented by visitors to St George's.

We would like to thank all those who serve actively on our numerous committees and groups, including PCC and Deanery Synod members as well as all our sub-committee members and other groups who do so much behind the scenes. I would like to offer a special vote of thanks to Caroline for her important work as Parish Treasurer in these difficult financial times and to Catherine for her work as PCC Secretary and Electoral Roll officer, not to mention as panto co-author. To name but a few others we also thank the Tuesday Group and maintenance crew, the Friends of St George, Friday Cafe, Messy Church and Little Saints leaders and the Saturday morning cleaning team.

The list goes on and we apologise to those not acknowledged specifically or by name.

Finally to thank every member of our congregation for your contribution to the worship and life of our church and parish. We are deeply grateful for the many privileges and blessings we enjoy at St. George's and for the fellowship and service of each one of our St. George's family.

Thank you all.

Michael de la Hunt and Louise Chapman, Churchwardens

Fixtures and Fittings Report

The Terrier and Inventory, which are the formal records of the Church buildings, grounds and contents, have been refreshed, upgraded and digitised during 2018 and forensic labelling reapplied to all our silver plate and removable treasures.

The Processional Cross was accidentally damaged in December 2018 and has been repaired and a storage box is being made to protect it while it is stored securely in the safe. Many thanks to those who have been involved in the repair and insurance claim for the accidental damage. We also record our thanks to St Hilda's for the loan of a processional cross until the repairs were completed. The donated altar cross was also accidentally damaged and has been repaired.

A defibrillator was donated by a member of the congregation and positioned on the front wall of the church hall to allow for use by the local community. It has already been used but unfortunately the casing was damaged in the heat of the moment and is now awaiting repair before the defibrillator can be made available again for public use through the Ambulance Control system.

We are pleased to confirm there has been no report of, and nor are we aware of, any other damage, loss or theft of any fixtures or fittings in the church or the associated grounds in 2018.

There has been some evidence of rodent activity in the Church, Church Hall and Close House. This has been addressed and some repair and repointing work done on the exteriors of the buildings to block further ingress. Further repair work and repointing to the rear of the church hall will be carried out when the weather permits.

As well as the regular programme of maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and gardens, much of which is done by a team of volunteers, a Smart meter has been installed to monitor the gas supply in the church hall and we are investigating water ingress above the south aisle in the church during heavy rain. Our Quinquennial (five yearly) Inspection of the church building is due to take place later this year and we are beginning preparations for this.

In March 2019 Planning Permission was granted by Newcastle Council for an amended design to the extension to the Church and the project will next be considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. (see the Building & Grounds Report for further details). We recognise a need for repairs and redecoration to the Church Hall pending the outcome of a Planning appeal to plan and undertake major refurbishment.

Michael de la Hunt and Louise Chapman, Churchwardens

List of Sidespersons, 2019-2020

Paddy Berson	Jackie and Ian Spencer
Margaret Evans	Jenny Click
Richard Pickersgill	Rosie Hampson
Barbara Peacock	Margaret Tait
Geoff White	Joyce Rogers
	Samuel Parker
Jon and Jean Davies	Peter and Vera Rodgers
Barbara Gardner	Julian and Kay Plumley
Graham Field and Andrew Field	Linsley de la Hunt
Rosemary Waters	
Susan Steadman	Toby Hedworth
Sue King	Brian Oliver
Nick Broome	Elizabeth Richardson
Hazel Jones-Lee	
Carmen Hubbard	
Christine Rowland	
Lesley Wilkinson,	
Ian Ness	
Chris and Sylvia Stenton	
Peter and Pauline Magnay	
Paul and Lorna Taylor	
Hilary Rutt	
Jim Lowe	
Sharon McCabe	
Brent and Ella Swinburne,	
Andrew Swai	
Dorothy Clark	
Janet Wilson	

Deanery Synod Report

Newcastle Central Deanery had 3 meetings in the year. Rev'd Catherine Macpherson and Rev'd Canon Brian Hurst made their 'Declarations of Assent and Oaths of Allegiance' and began their work as Acting Area Dean and Acting Assistant Area Dean respectively. Much of the work of last year was in the organising and delivering of the Pathways Mission in September. Working as a deanery we delivered a lot of community events over that weekend. We have spent much time deliberating over Parish Share and we have tried wherever possible to work for the common good by helping one another; most of our negotiations have happened at Deanery level as the Diocese sets Parish Share for the Deanery and then the Deanery allocates to individual churches. The Deanery Synod had many presentations during the year to inform us about what is happening in the Diocese, the main one being 'Setting God's People Free' which is the central church's project to empower and facilitate lay leadership and partnership / team working with clergy and lay together. Rev'd Canon Ian Flintoft is leading this work for the Diocese and we will be hearing much more about plans for lay ministries in the future.

Izzy McDonald-Booth, Dr Sue Vernon and Rosemary Waters

Safeguarding report

There have been no adverse incidents this year to my knowledge.

We are in line with current Diocesan safeguarding policy and the website is currently compliant with National Church of England recommendations.

Dr Sue Vernon, Parish Safeguarding Officer

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

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 25 March 2019
In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

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

The Parish will:

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

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

This church appoints Dr Sue Vernon as the Parish Safeguarding Officer

Incumbent

Churchwardens

Date.....

Buildings and Grounds Report

The main focus again this year has been the applications for Planning Approval for the Extension to the Church and the Alterations and Refurbishment of the Hall. This has taken up a great deal of officer time in resolving outstanding matters.

The Extension to the Church has now received the Grant of Planning Permission from the City of Newcastle. The main stumbling block, as reported to the Parish AGM last year, was the problem of the trees along the north boundary with the Tennis Club. After delays in getting a meeting with the Tree Officer, agreeing a 'Tree Management Plan' setting out how the felling and replacement of the existing trees would be carried out, drafting the formal legal Undertaking that we would carry out the work in the prescribed manner required by the Planners, and getting agreement of the other parties involved, the Undertaking was finally ready at the turn of the year. Following PCC approval in February, the signed Undertaking was passed to the Planning Case Officer and the Grant of Planning Permission was issued on 1st March 2019.

Following the planning approval for the Church Extension, it is now necessary to make application to the Diocesan Advisory Committee [DAC], petitioning it to recommend to the Chancellor of the Diocese that Faculty to carry out the project be granted. The preparation of this application is well advanced, and it is hoped that it will be approved by the DAC in the coming months.

Unfortunately, the application for Planning Approval for the proposed Alterations and Refurbishment of the Hall was refused by the City, mainly on conservation issues, and the PCC decided that an appeal against the decision should be made. The paperwork for this has been prepared and is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate.

A list of minor work to Close House prior to Stephanie's arrival was prepared, and these issues have been dealt with by the Tuesday Group. The one outstanding matter is secondary glazing to the windows.

Various other matters relating to maintenance of the buildings are in discussion including the possibility of carrying out some short-term work to the Hall, repairs to stonework primarily to the Tower, minor problems with the Church lighting, continuing incidental repairs to the mosaic and wood block floors, and the like.

The Tuesday Group contribution to the upkeep of the Church, the Hall and the Grounds, together with that of others on the grass cutting rota, makes a considerable saving in maintenance costs, and is much appreciated. However, the Tuesday group is being used to provide labour for all sorts of work, over and above its main function: to keep the grounds tidy and perhaps attend to Church issues, e.g. Christmas Trees and Crib. The Committee note that the Group does not have the manpower to do things for other Committees and individuals. The current members are not getting any younger, and in spite of requests, no additional help has been forthcoming recently.

Alan Johnson, Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee

Children and Young People's Report

Membership during the year has been Izzy, Kay, Lisa, Derek, Lorna, Lucy, Wendy, Helen (coordinator), Pauline (convenor).

We have met every 6-8 weeks to provide a strategic direction for children and young people's work.

Sunday School and Smarties continue to meet during the 9.30 Sunday Service. Planning meetings take place termly and activities follow the readings in church. Rotas have been difficult to manage during the year due to a shortage of volunteers and there were some discussions about how we could manage if there was only one adult available.

Sunday space for children: Uptake this year of the spaces developed last year for children to use during coffee time has been good.

Messy church met twice each term during 2018, coordinated by Wendy and assisted by a group of volunteers. The numbers attending were low and we discussed stopping at the end of the summer term. However, as Wendy was planning to step down at the end of the year, we decided to continue Messy Church until the end of year and had the last session in December.

Sunday Knights has met approximately fortnightly during term time, led by Helen, with Donald and parents assisting. Sessions include one outing each term and the rest sessions in the church, hall or on the green. From September, the knights were involved in deciding their own programme of activities which led to a Karting trip and some new ideas for activities. They were involved in the pantomime, the Fete, the Christmas Fair and also challenged the congregation to the annual rounders match. A weekend residential event was discussed but no suitably priced location could be secured.

Youth and Family Worker: During the year, we have continued to discuss the need for a Children and Young People/ Family Worker. We believe that this role is complementary to but distinct from a Parish Placement such as we have had before and continue to explore. We are aware that our work with Children and Young People relies on a core group of volunteers who are already stretched; the numbers of children and families are also diminishing. There is a need to employ someone in order to develop our work with young people and families in order to help us to engage with more families and young people to ensure growth, and to provide continuity. Having spoken to another parish about how they had gone about employing someone to work with children and families, we then put together a statement of need for the PCC. We are delighted that they also recognised a need and made a commitment to match any funding we could get in order to employ someone to help us develop our work with young people and families. We then identified places we could apply for funding for this post and are now working on writing funding bids.

Recruitment: Thank you very much to all those who help in delivering our activities for children and young people - we are hugely grateful. However, in order to continue with this important work, we need more volunteers.

Helen Young and Pauline Pearson

Learning, Discipleship and Service Report

The Committee has met three times during 2018 and has continued to maintain our commitment to Dementia Friendly Jesmond and to Mission Giving.

The major focus of the year has been the Bishop's Mission to the Diocese (6th – 9th September), which was introduced to us by Izzy, who had already been involved in three such missions. Our first task was to work out a programme of events, which would attract in the local community. We considered a variety of possibilities, but also recognised that there were a number of initiatives that we already have in place that would 'fit the bill' and showcase what we already do – Friday Café followed by the Singing group and Little Saints – plus a new initiative for the Saturday – the Big Friendly Gathering, ideally on St George's Green for maximum visibility. On the day we had a large number of people, mostly new faces, who thoroughly enjoyed the Scottish and Irish dancers, particularly the impromptu dancing to Lord of the Dance, accompanied by Newcastle Concert Band, in Church. The Bishop of Lancaster attended both Little Saints on the Friday afternoon and the Big Friendly Gathering.

Joan Grenfell and Barbara Peacock, Co-chairs of LDS

Finance Committee Report

1) Role of the Committee in the Short to Medium term:

- Stabilising the ongoing funding of church activities.
- Managing funding inputs and outputs to reduce stress and risk to the Church's overall financial position on an annual basis.
- The development and promotion of Planned Giving campaigns, Gift Days, Stewardship campaigns.
- Introducing more efficient and flexible means of giving in line with Church of England recommended systems and using mobile phone technology.
- Constantly reappraising how our various reserve funds are managed to ensure we garner the best interest rates within our risk profile.

2) Members of the Committee

Margaret Baron, Louise Chapman, John Clark, Caroline Field (Treasurer), Rev. Brian Hurst, Enid Pearson, Christine Rowland, Paul Taylor, and Murray Waldron. The Wardens have always played an active part in the Finance meetings which take place approximately bi-monthly.

3) Finance Committee Actions

3.1) In April 2018 we organised an enjoyable family Gift Day with the support from all aspects of Church life and our involvement in the wider community fortunately the weather was kind and it was a very happy occasion. The Gift Day resulted in an additional sum of £5,500 (including gift aid) being raised.

3.2) John Clark is the person responsible for ensuring accurate claims and the management of the planned giving element of the finances together with Caroline Field. Their involvement has led to substantial improvements in efficiency and has resulted in keeping on top of our tax situation. John has developed this into a clearly defined visual process.

3.3) When the 2018 accounts were finalised we were able to continue our annual charitable giving programme supporting the continued work of the St. George's committees and groups. However, it is clear that with a deficit that this commitment puts an additional strain on our resources.

3.4) In November 2018 the committee agreed to undertake the organisation of a St George's Stewardship Campaign. This will focus on emphasising the importance of continually reappraising the value of our giving through the various systems we use.

4) A deficit for 2019.

The Finance Committee and PCC were working towards a small deficit budget for 2018 due to voluntary income (planned giving and donations) remaining static whilst costs, principally parish share, continue to rise. The Summer Fete and the Christmas Fair raised over £7,500 in 2018, a significant source of

income. We are again forecasting a deficit for 2019 for similar reasons. Hence, it is hoped the upcoming Stewardship Campaign will help bridge a gap.

5) Investment Strategy

We continue to monitor our investments, for which we have oversight responsibility, whilst retaining the necessary flexibility needed to cover any emerging issues. In February 2019 the Finance Committee, with help from a member of the congregation, formulated a proposal to invest around £50K in ethical funds providing a better return than currently obtained on bank deposit. This was agreed by PCC at the March 2019 meeting. We will still retain the necessary flexibility to cope with any unforeseen changes in our circumstances or requirements for repairs to the Church which might arise in the immediate future.

6) Direct Debit Scheme

We continue to operate and promote the Direct Debit Scheme to existing and new parishioners. The scheme allows for uplift in the value of the commitment in line with RPI, which is generally quite a small percentage. Our Stewardship Campaign will emphasise increasing the yearly commitment beyond this percentage if it is practicable for individuals and families so to do.

7) Thanks

This is my final report to the PCC having been chair for the past 5 or so years as I am stepping down. My experience as chair has been framed by the quality of advice, support and commitment of the other members which have made it an easy task to manage the committee's activity and to manage the necessary changes in the way we operate. Especial thanks to present and past members of the committee who offer their time and talents voluntarily.

Paul Taylor on behalf of the Finance Committee

Choir Report

The congregation of St George's Church is very fortunate in having a large, competent robed choir of children and adults, both male and female, who sing regularly for the Sunday morning Service. They also sing for the monthly Choral Evensong and for festivals and are needed now and again to provide the music for family weddings and other important occasions. Not many parish churches can rely on the number of choir members that we have.

We are always glad to welcome back those college students who think of St George's as their 'musical' home. It is also good for us, because students often return with musical ideas that we can try to emulate and put into practice with our own choir.

Regular attendance for a weekly choir practice and Sunday services is a huge commitment and it is a great credit to those choir members that they continue to come every week and for festivals.

We have an interesting and quite extensive range of music 'under our belts', so to speak, music from the 16th century to the present day and we try to ring the changes.

Frederick Peacock BEM, MA, FRCO, Organist and Choir Master

Bellringers' Report

Until 3 or 4 years ago we were regularly short of bellringers and usually managed to ring only 6 bells on a Sunday rather than the full 8. Some weeks there were not sufficient of us to make any noise.

I reported that we had been successful in training recruits and matters were now healthier so that the bells did "comfort the sick, warn the heedless and call all willing hearts to prayer and praise" on all occasions over the past year. Numbers have continued to improve, partly due to national campaigns on promoting bellringing, including the health benefits (physical and mental) of the exercise. This has resulted in all 8 bells being rung most Sundays and practice nights are well supported by ringers from other towers. We particularly have good relationships with Hexham, Fenham and Gosforth who regularly attend on a Friday and our ringers reciprocate at their towers.

We have continued to ring for special occasions, sometimes with the help of visitors from other towers. We have rung for weddings, and for St George's Day. A very good quarter peal, being 45 minutes of continuous ringing, was rung on the church's 130 birthday.

We rang for the Jesmond Festival in 2018 and will be doing so again at the start of this year's festival. Many of you will know that the D&N (Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers) led an initiative to ring a quarter peal on the centenary of the death of all 41 D&N members who did not survive the war and on 3 October a quarter peal was rung in memory of Pr. Albert Errington of Tavistock Road who was a member of our band.

On Armistice Day St George's took part in the 'Ringing Remembers' national event and rang half muffled bells before the 9:30 church service on the 11th of November. At 11:00 the tenor bell (the deepest) was tolled 100 times by Steve Edwards with Lorna Taylor undertaking the counting and the full 8 were then rung at 12:30pm without muffles in celebration of peace. In the run up to Armistice Day there was a successful national campaign to recruit 1,400 new bellringers, that number of ringers having been lost in the first world war.

Although the belfry is so much stronger than it has been for 30 years we are constantly looking for reinforcements and more learners would be very welcome. So, if you would like to see what it is about please contact myself or Lorna Taylor. Age range about 11 to 65. My contact details are on the notice sheet each week.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the ringers for their support and endeavours but particularly Lorna for the help she is constantly providing as tower secretary.

Geoff White, Tower Captain

The Friends of St George's Report

Another busy year with a variety of events, drawing in both the congregation and the Jesmond community and trying to engage with differing age groups and differing interests. Quite often in the year we have provided refreshments at concerts – for the Northern Doctors Chorus and Northern Orchestra and for The Singers Christmas Concert – the refreshments going from tea and cake, glasses of wine or mulled wine and mince pies! We are very versatile!!

We welcomed Newcastle Concert Band towards the end of June – they have happily become a regular booking for us and always provide a lively, varied and interesting programme. Also, in June we enjoyed a challenging evening tackling the Sophie/Simon Quiz - always a very popular event appealing to people from near and far. Sad to say my team has yet to score anywhere near the top – perhaps next time?

The start of July brought the Annual Dinner, always an excellent evening, with delicious food and the best of company. Proceeds from the Dinner go to the Lamplight Fund, to restore the original light on the stone pillar across the way from the Parish Office.

In September we tried something very new to us – a Youth Music Day, the aim being to bring in young people with musical talent at all levels and to showcase them. Numbers attending were lower than we had hoped for, but the music produced was excellent and it was lovely to see the young people throwing themselves into their music with such great enthusiasm.

October brought 'Fool's Gold' an acoustic duo from the North East singing local songs and telling the stories behind them – a very visual and very interesting and entertaining evening.

November brought the long-awaited Baron's Spanish Evening – a feast of food, fun, music, the odd quiz or three and excellent company. How quickly can we get them back? November also brought the return of the Blue Jazz Quintet, which always means a brilliantly played range of music plus a light supper! What more could one ask for?

In December we welcomed the Tyneside Chamber Orchestra with a mixed programme starting with Purcell and ending with Rousell. We look forward to them doing a return visit. 2019 started with a talk by Geoff Hughes entitled 'Strange Tales and Ghostly Happenings in Northumbria', which was absolutely fascinating and very lively, as at several points we were required to sing some local songs, completely unrehearsed. Finally, the most delightful afternoon being entertained by the Darling Dollies, a vintage trio, singing songs of the 40s and 50s, followed by the most stupendous homemade tea.

Barbara Peacock, Hon Secretary of the Friends of St George's

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31-12-18

1. Total incoming resources are £186,132, compared with £229,305 in 2017, a decrease of £43,173. Restricted income was down by £50,530, reflecting significant grant income received in 2017 for the floodlighting scheme. This decrease was partially offset by increased unrestricted income.
2. Unrestricted income was up by £7,405, from £175,899 in 2017 to £183,304 in 2018. Voluntary income (donations and legacies) remained static, income from trading increased and that from church activities decreased slightly. The main reason for the overall increase in unrestricted income was a one-off VAT refund of £4,676.
3. Planned giving receipts were £74,575 in 2018 compared with £73,362 in 2017, a small increase of £1,213. The Gift Day in April 2018 raised £4,604 net (£5,500 with Gift Aid). No Gift Day was held during 2017.
4. Total expenditure was £191,717 compared with £242,504 for 2017, a decrease of £50,787. This decrease is mainly due to the 2017 church floodlighting cost (£47,037). Unrestricted expenditure rose by £4,169 from £183,673 in 2017 to £187,842 in 2018. Increases in Parish Share and utility costs were partially offset by reduced spending on the Whole Site Plan.
5. General Fund income was £182,859 and expenditure including transfers was £186,531, giving a year end General Fund balance of £51,131.

Caroline Field, Treasurer