

# The Parish Church of St. George, Jesmond



## Parochial Church Council

### Minutes of a meeting of St. George's PCC on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 in the Winskell Room

<b>Present</b>	Revd Canon Brian Hurst (Chair)	Mike Ranson (Treasurer)
	Louise Chapman (Churchwarden)	Mike de la Hunt
	Graham Hatt (Churchwarden)	Margaret Vane
	Kay Plumley	Paul Taylor
	Sophie Leach	Donald Gaze
<b>Apologies</b>	Izzy McDonald-Booth	Revd Derek Avery
	Sue Vernon	Joan Grenfell
	Revd Stephanie Keates	
<b>In Attendance</b>	Janet Wilson (Secretary)	
<b>Not In Attendance</b>	Tom Klenka	

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Prayers and Apologies</b> The vicar welcomed everyone and apologies were given.
<b>2</b>	<b>For Approval:</b> co-option of Treasurer Michael L Ranson to PCC <b>Proposer GH; second LC</b> <b>Unanimously voted in favour</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> Accepted as an accurate record
<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b> a) <u>ECO event</u> KP updated. Postponed till Spring date to be determined, according to then prevailing pandemic regulations. Thanks to a donation from Waitrose and Classic Masonry, the environmental poster competition for children would go ahead. Trials of heated pew seats from various companies booked for colder weather. These are commonly used in Europe and do not damage the pew fabric. b) <u>Frederick's plaque</u> . BH updated that this plaque- giving thanks for Frederick Peacock's long service as organist and choir master- will be dedicated by the Bishop on 17 October. c) <u>Tower repairs</u> -GH The scaffolding which had cost £45,000 had permitted additional inspections as anticipated. An additional column cap repair costing £1935 had been quoted. As the original contingency budget was £78,940 and the works to date totalled under £74,000, there were no objections to this additional spend which was approved unanimously. The helpful supplementary role of Derek Nicholson former churchwarden was acknowledged in liaison with Classic Masonry. KP questioned how long the scaffolding would be in place as the youth leader wished to place a Pride banner to coincide with student welcome. Not yet a formal proposal. <b>ACTION –BH/KP/Wardens –to further explore Pride Banner outwith the PCC</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Musical Director update</b> <b>Drew Cantrill-Fenwick</b> would take up position this week with duties including a funeral, choir rehearsal and his first Sunday service on 26 September. He had already proposed a variety of stimulating ideas including organ scholar, reinstating evensong perhaps as early as 17 October.

	<p>He was in conversation with other churches perhaps to coordinate Evensong occurrence elsewhere. He was also in touch, with a colleague, with some schools and considering organ recitals. He planned to publish upcoming music selections on the website and on a poster. A further proposal was for a children's choir which would rehearse regularly but require each member to undertake only a small number of individual performances annually. Drew has his own website [<a href="https://andrewcantrill.com/">https://andrewcantrill.com/</a>]. KP suggested liaison with Youth leader Emily who is also reaching out to schools. Employment status would be clarified on 21 September – BH meeting with Archdeacon.</p> <p>In respect of choir numbers Helen Young had been following RSCM guidelines to proceed with caution. Currently CoE advice is that the incumbent should determine local circumstances. BH favours slow steady progress to avoid the risk of a sudden step back. GH noted that no one had yet requested use of the “nonsinging” pews [currently on offer now that congregational singing, with masks, had been resumed].</p> <p><b>ACTION DC-F BH Wardens and Choir to discuss steps towards resumption of normal choir configurations in church</b></p>
6	<p><b>Living in Love and Faith</b> KP spoke to the proposal which had been circulated, emphasising importance, given our inclusive Church status, of representative feedback from our members. It was confirmed that the imminent Zoom meetings, led by IMB, a diocesan champion of LLF, were to be one hour duration and at the same topics would be covered on Zoom and in the Vicar's face-to-face meetings in January. MdlH pointed out it was also possible to follow the course of study independently. Individual feedback as well as the formal group summery feedback can be uploaded.</p> <p><b>Proposal That PCC members should enroll for the 5 weekly meetings</b></p> <p><b>Proposer-KP; Second DG. Approved with no objections</b></p>
7	<p><b>Generous Giving week update – IMB summary attached</b></p> <p>BH explained the context of this week. By coincidence the national church and Diocese have channelled Generosity Week at a time that coincides with what had become St George's Stewardship Week. The principles were to encourage us to be generous in response to our generous God, and to give thanks to the generosity of our predecessors and those worshipping around us. In response to a question, BH outlined the CoE official teaching is tithing -10% of income to charity, half of that to the church, though he was well aware that 5% for some might be a much heavier burden than 5% of the income of someone more fortunate. KP requested photographs for next Sunday's PowerPoint presentation.</p>
8	<p><b>Know your Church Know your Neighbourhood</b></p> <p>BH summarised. John Sadler had been asked to give views on how to begin to go about fundraising for the Whole Site Plan/hall renovations. This had morphed into the KYCKYN work comprising five sessions and excellent intervening consultative work. Although the community conversations had already been fed back the process had not yet concluded due to the volume of material to be digested by those involved and to give it the respect it deserved. KP had offered to perform some data analysis on findings.</p> <p><b>ACTION BH / KYCKYN group to reflect on what had been gathered to generate a single PCC proposal</b></p>

9	<p><b>Hall Boiler Grant application</b></p> <p>KP and GH spoke to this proposal which had been circulated on behalf of the ECO group. The grant deadline was the end of December. The obtaining of grant did not of itself commit to the purchase of a new boiler which would require a separate PCC proposal in the form of funding strategy for the outstanding costs. VAT exemption for church hall buildings remained less clear-cut than that for church premises themselves. There appeared low risk of unforeseen major added costs. The timelapse between the grant of an award and the required execution of works was not known. Alternatives to a gas boiler were revisited in the meeting. The ECO group was well aware that a fossil fuel burning boiler was not ideal but the costs of alternatives were prohibitive for example the renovations required for air source heat pumps would have cost in excess of £65,000. This level of expenditure implicated the future of the whole hall building. Also it was pointed out that Newcastle City Council was committed to net zero by 2030- yet supported the replacement of the old boiler with a new more efficient condensing boiler which consume less gas. CO2 savings had been outlined in detail on the proposal. It was accepted that cost estimates for savings on gas expenditure were imprecise because of the volatile wholesale gas prices, and the intermittent hall usage. The risk at present was that if the boiler broke down the hall would not be fit for purpose, it could no longer be used by parishioners or hired to outside groups, with revenue implications.</p> <p><b>Proposal – That the PCC approve application for a grant from Newcastle City Council towards the cost of a new boiler in the hall</b></p> <p><b>Proposer KP second GH. Approved unanimously.</b></p>
10	<p><b>Contactless giving</b></p> <p>JAW - The circulated proposal builds on an outline supplied by the vicar supported by the Diocesan Generous Giving Officer. PT pointed out the facility had first been noted two years ago, and that now that the church had a compatible Wi-Fi system, it was “no-brainer” that it should be embraced. The system proposed, offering access to smart phone users and those who prefer Tap and Give was a modest outlay, widely used and strongly supported by the diocese. Fine details however such as absolute security of the device when the church is not in use, compatibility of Apple devices with the Give A Little app, the suggested giving amounts where used and how individual accounts could function most smoothly within the system, required to be worked out. It was agreed that it was hard to address these specifics until we had working knowledge of the proposed system.</p> <p><b>Proposal That the PCC approve the purchase of a CollecTin device and banking facility</b></p> <p><b>Proposer – MLR; second PT. Approved unanimously.</b></p>
11	<p><b>Any Other Urgent Business</b></p> <p>MLR raised the issue as to whether virtual bank card details should be available for a small group of church officers to facilitate payment without the need for post-HOC reimbursement. The parish secretary Jonathan currently makes the largest number of such payments. Many low value purchase reimbursements by others were never submitted. Purchase and reimburse system was problematic from an accounting control point of view – lack of evidence that goods had been purchased. The overall feeling of the meeting was that a bank card would be useful.</p> <p><b>ACTION – MLR to circulate a formal policy to PCC members and allowed the standing committee/finance committee to consider in-depth</b></p>
12	<p><b><u>Dates Of Next Meetings</u></b></p> <p><b>ACTION – BH to determine venue for PCC and SC going forward</b></p> <p><b>PCC Monday 15th November – venue TBC</b></p> <p>2022- Monday 24th January, Monday 21st March</p> <p><b>Standing Committee Monday 18th October</b></p>