



# The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

## Parochial Church Council

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 July 2024**

at 7.30 pm in the Choir Vestry, St George's Church

Present: Mike de la Hunt, Alison Mattinson, Enid Pearson, Kay Plumley, Mike Ranson (Treasurer), Nigel Russell-Sewell (Secretary), Brent Swinburne, Janet Wilson (Lay Chair).

Apologies: Hilary Cullingford, Joan Grenfell, Lana Liu, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Ian Ness, Margaret Vane, Sue Vernon (Safeguarding Officer).

1. The Chair opened the meeting with prayer.
2. All were welcomed to the meeting.
3. Apologies were noted.

#### **4. Declaration of Interests**

- 4.1 No conflicts of interest were declared.

#### **5. Minutes of the last Meeting**

- 5.1 The minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 24 May were approved. Proposed: Kay Plumley; seconded: Mike Ranson.

#### **6. Matters arising**

- 6.1 The action log was updated, with all actions completed (except for 24-04 12.3 which cannot be actioned until a new Vicar is in residence).

- 6.2 Issues remain with the fan heaters in the hall. A quotation has been received, but it is unclear what action remains and with whom.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

## **7. Appointment of a Vicar to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda**

- 7.1 All were delighted with the appointment of The Reverend Debbie Loughran.
- 7.2 Thanks were offered to our Representatives for all they did in the appointment process.
- 7.3 Noted: local churches of other denominations had been informed of the appointment and of the date of the installation.

## **8. Children and Young People**

- 8.1 Kay Plumley reported on Lana Liu's behalf. It was noted that age should be for 8 years and above, and signage noting "for church use" should be installed.
- 8.2 Question: should £130 be used for delivery and return of a borrowed table, or should we purchase one for £354 (including installation)? Mike de la Hunt offered a high-standard table that is not being used at no cost; delivery and the cost of a cover would be required. Agreed that Mike's offer be taken up, and CYP funds used for delivery and sundry expenses.

**ACTION: Kay Plumley/Lana Liu**

## **9. Diocese of Newcastle Net Zero Action Plan**

- 9.1 Reported: Diocese has signed up to achieve net-zero by 2030, which will be a challenge. The current usage of 7,900 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> should be reduced by 90% such that 10% could be off-set in 2030 if required. The cost to the diocese of work required will be £29 M with average of £45,000 per church building (more likely to be £250,000 for St George' due to upgrade of electricity supply), £75,000 per vicarage, £750,000 for Church House and £2 M for the Cathedral. A vast sum is required and a number of new appointments will be sought to run and manage this.
- 9.2 The Diocese would like all buildings on a green energy tariff as soon as possible. We are on green tariffs except for gas, which is not available to us (it would have to be biogas). They would also like all lighting to be LED, which we are working towards. All vicarages are being fitted with EV charging points.
- 9.3 National Church of England funding models have been revised, but funding is not being provided to dioceses. Expecting £7 M from Government and the £29 M is potentially there from specialist funding bodies. Funding at this level is something that St George's can contribute to. We could commit to raise towards the £45,000 church average.

- 9.4 Next step: once appointments have been made it will be useful to sit down with them to explore how we can raise funds or contribute.

**ACTION: Kay Plumley**

- 9.5 Kay was thanked for presenting the report, and congratulated on her appointment to Diocesan Synod.

## **10. Standing item: Safeguarding**

- 10.1 No issues were reported.

## **11. Standing item: Finance**

- 11.1 The Treasurer reported that monthly and annual expenditure is on-track for the first 5 months of the year. The money generously donated by the Cookson Charity was nearly £14,000 and to be used for the benefit of the church and must not, by instruction from the charity Trustees, be used in making any payment to the diocese. There are some outstanding issues from the last quinquennial that need attending to and this money could be used towards that; combined with last year's contribution we have about £30,000 to use from this trust.

- 11.2 Balance (£19,360) on legacies is before the expenditure on the lectern steps.

- 11.3 Question: should we reconsider the amount we contribute to the diocese as it is the poorest in the country? Response: we said we would increase our share when we could afford to. The Treasurer has still not received information to how the Parish Share was calculated. We hope to be more buoyant following the installation of the new Vicar, and a campaign to increase giving may then follow.

- 11.4 Noted: we are no further forward with enquiries about the endowment, and release of the funds. Charity Commission have advised using a lawyer, and suggested Paul Baird may be able to suggest someone appropriate.

**ACTION: Treasurer**

- 11.5 The Treasurer was thanked for his work on the finances.

## **12. Standing item: Building and Projects Group**

- 12.1 Received: meeting notes from June Building and Projects Group meeting. The Quinquennial expires in December. Kevin Doonan is recommended to be appointed Architect. PCC is asked to formally appoint. Proposed: Mike de la Hunt; seconded: Enid Pearson; all in favour.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

- 12.2 Heating: contractor quoted £4,932 (excluding VAT) for the heating pump. It had been previously agreed that this work should be carried out. Clarity about the control panel and hall fans should also be requested. Ideally work should be carried out by 1 September. The Treasurer noted we should fund all this work now, and all agreed.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

- 12.3 The Scouts are removing their belongings from the hall next week to the container, which they are renting for £12.50 per week.
- 12.4 Security: there have been no issues since November. CCTV will be explored once the new Vicar has arrived.
- 12.5 Lectern steps should be installed and dedicated to Ann Biles by the new Vicar.
- 12.6 The Vicar board will be updated.
- 12.7 Discussed: upkeep of the vicarage garden; PCC agreed to contribute towards this if required.
- 12.8 Four estimates have been received to replace the photocopier. Jonathan to follow up on this.
- 12.9 Noted: the floor safe has become difficult to open/close. The locksmith carrying out other work will be invited to investigate.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

### **13. Standing item: St George's Community Hub 2025**

- 13.1 Next Steering Group is on 13 August when the lottery funding options will be explored.

### **14. Churchwarden updates**

- 14.1 The lunchtime concerts have been successful.
- 14.2 Someone attending the choir rehearsal for Frederick Peacock's memorial service had a nasty fall outside the hall resulting in hospital treatment following emergency treatment on site by doctors in the choir. The person did not think they had tripped on anything, and this was investigated. They still have their wrist in a plaster cast but are recovering. The first aid box has been checked and restocked by Alison Mattinson. A check will be made that the accident log has been completed.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

- 14.3 Following the interregnum, Enid Pearson intends to step down as Churchwarden and a replacement will be sought in the autumn.

**15. Any other business**

15.1 Dogs on the Green: recommended the existing sign is removed as there is very little that can be done to stop people walking dogs.

**ACTION: Enid Pearson**

15.2 Pew cushions: samples were viewed from three companies. The cost of £20,000 to fit out the whole church was deemed prohibitive given the funds we are currently trying to raise for the extension.

15.3 A Memorandum of Understanding has been produced for the organ project. The Treasurer's comments have been taken into account. The document will be circulated to all PCC members and comments to be sent to the Secretary within 7 days. Approval will then take place by Chair's action so as not to delay the project.

16. The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with The Grace.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

<b>PCC Meeting</b>	<b>Deadline for Agenda items</b>
Monday 9 September	Sunday 01 September, midday
Tuesday 19 November	Sunday 10 November, midday
Wednesday 8 January 2025	Sunday 29 December 2024, midday
Monday 10 March	Sunday 02 March, midday
<i>Annual Meetings, Sunday 11 May (separate notification)</i>	
Tuesday 20 May	Sunday 11 May, midday

All meetings will begin at 7.30 pm. Meetings from November are subject to availability of the Vicar. Venue will be confirmed in the agenda papers.

**Dates to note:**

7 October

Installation of Revd Debbie Loughran as Vicar of the Benefice of St George and St Hilda, St George's 7.30 pm

## ACTION LOG

Meeting	Item	Action	Status
24-04	12.3	Churchwardens to liaise with new incumbent on the vicarage gardens	
24-07	6.2	Enid to follow up action on fan heaters in hall	
24-07	8.2	Kay/Lana to liaise with Mike de la Hunt about table tennis table	
24-07	9.4	Kay to explore with Diocesan appointees re our contribution towards the Net Zero plans	
24-07	11.4	Treasurer to investigate appointing a lawyer to sort out the endowment	
24-07	12.1	Enid to communicate appointment of Architect	
24-07	12.2	Enid to engage contractor to complete boiler work	
24-07	12.9	Enid to invite locksmith to investigate floor safe	
24-07	14.2	Enid to ensure we have an accident book and that it is being kept up-to-date	
24-07	15.1	Enid to request removal of “no dogs on the green” signage	
NEW ACTION		COMPLETED	NOT YET COMPLETED (UP TO 4 MONTHS)
			NOT YET COMPLETED (OVER 4 MONTHS)