



The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

Parochial Church Council

Lay Chair: Professor Janet Wilson

Secretary: Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9 September 2024

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

Present: Joan Grenfell, Alison Mattinson, Ian Ness, Enid Pearson, Nigel Russell-Sewell, Janet Wilson.

Apologies: Hilary Cullingford, Mike de la Hunt, Lana Liu, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Kay Plumley, Mike Ranson, Margaret Vane, Sue Vernon.

1. Joan Grenfell opened the meeting with prayers looking forward to the new ministry of Debbie, Vicar-Elect.
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 10 July were approved. Proposed: Alison Mattinson; seconded: Enid Pearson.

6. Matters arising

- 6.1 Item 24-07-15.1: the sign regarding dogs on the green remains in place. Discussion over whether or not the sign should be removed, which was not resolved one way or another. Recommended that a vote be put to all PCC members.

ACTION: Secretary

- 6.2 The Accident Book will be moved to the Churchwardens' desk.

ACTION: Chair

- 6.3 The action log was updated.

7. Installation of the Vicar

- 7.1 Linsley de la Hunt and Margaret Baron, with Vera and Peter are organising refreshments following the installation. A reasonably substantial buffet will be provided given the time of the service and people travelling some distances. An estimate of ~£600 based on current numbers for food will be provided. Wine will also be provided. Members of the congregations of St George's and St Hilda's have been approached to assist with catering provision and distribution on the night. The final costs will depend on the numbers attending. The PCC agreed these were essential costs and we cannot expect guests to offer donations for this special occasion.

- 7.2 The Area Dean has sent the order of service to the Bishop for approval. Five symbols will be presented to the Vicar during the service. Three people have been nominated from St George's and two from St Hilda's. A reader has been nominated from each congregation.

8. Churchwardens and Deputy Wardens

- 8.1 Enid gave notice at the Annual Meetings that she would stand down as Churchwarden at the end of the interregnum so she can return to the choir. The PCC would like to appoint a Churchwarden as soon as possible. We are not permitted to have more than two by the Churchwardens' Measure. However, we can have any number of Deputy Wardens.

- 8.2 The proposal was made to appoint a Churchwarden to succeed Enid, along with one or two Deputy Wardens who might try aspects of the role and succeed as and when the Churchwardens stand down at the end of their terms, or following the permitted maximum number of consecutive terms served. The Churchwardens Measure sets the legal responsibilities and clearly defined roles, but the role at St George's has expanded considerably with a number of duties that Deputies could do. It remains the Churchwardens' role to ensure the jobs have been done.

- 8.3 The structure and responsibilities of Wardens/Deputies needs reviewing. Suggested: a workshop with members of the community and the new Vicar to look at all roles: the legal roles of the Churchwardens, the roles carried out that deputies or others could do, and broaden to include other activities that people may be interested in whether now or in the future. This will raise awareness of all that needs to happen to keep the church and parish in good order.

ACTION: Churchwardens

9. Standing item: Safeguarding

- 9.1 Church security: should a bright security light be provided in the porch? We are not in a position to do much against a physical incident during services. A verbal interruption could be dealt with by suspending the service to give a platform for a few minutes, with appropriate action subsequently if they persist in interrupting a service. Something to discuss further with the Vicar.
- 9.2 Hall security: the new lock has been installed along with a keypad and bell. The Chair will speak to *Little Kickers* about security during their session. However, the electronic door lock for the office is still outstanding; further enquiries will be made.

ACTION: Chair

- 9.3 Maintaining the dignity of the Garden of Remembrance: there have been two different rough sleepers using the lawn. Recommended no new signage is provided, but that people with tents are asked to move on. The existing sign noting that area is a Garden of Remembrance should be repaired; however, this is something that should wait for the new Vicar as they have ultimate responsibility here.
- 9.4 Safeguarding Code for Bell Ringing: the PCC has formally adopted the Code for Ringing and the Bellringers are asked to display this in the Tower.

ACTION: Chair

10. Standing item: Finance

- 10.1 The Treasurer requested PCC consider bank signatories and recommended Debbie, as incoming PCC Chair, be added to the Lloyds account now so that all is in place by the time she starts. PCC agreed. Given Enid is standing down as Churchwarden one further signatory is requested alongside the Treasurer, PCC Chair and Lay Chair. Kay Plumley and Mike de la Hunt have stood in during the interregnum; one of these may wish to continue.

ACTION: Treasurer

11. Standing item: Building and Projects Group

- 11.1 A proposal had been received regarding the nave and chancel pendant light bulbs, which are now obsolete. Recommended: a local firm be appointed to look at the possibility of installing dimmable LED lighting. However, it was noted this is not a decision that needs rushing into as the lifetime of the current bulbs is not yet known; those that have failed to date were impacted by lightning strikes. Recommended that Ian Ness and Ian Spencer have a couple of months to explore options and report to the November PCC meeting.

ACTION: Ian Ness

- 11.2 The repair to the boiler has cost £1,500 more than originally expected due to an unforeseen pipe blockage (total cost: £6,631.58). The remote control system will not be installed at this time due to the cost. The two heaters in the hall have been replaced.
- 11.3 The Clergy Vestry and its vestibule will be painted in due course.

12. Standing item: St George's Community Hub 2025

- 12.1 Received: written notes from the latest meeting.

13. Churchwarden updates

- 13.1 Lectern steps: Ian was formally thanked for the steps. The Vicar will be asked to dedicate them, with support from Joan, in memory of Ann Biles.
- 13.2 Heritage Open Days are ongoing at the moment. Formal thanks to Barbara Peacock for organising and promoting, and Roy Large for his organ recital.
- 13.3 Retirement of the Bell Captain: the PCC offered thanks to Geoff White for his many years of service and he will be missed. The Chair will write to thank Geoff. The new Captain is John Markham.

ACTION: Chair

- 13.4 Maintenance of the Vicarage: The Tuesday Group have made good progress with tidying up the rather overgrown vicarage garden and it will be in a reasonable condition when the Vicar moves in. Once Debbie has had a chance to settle in we can consider a longer term plan: whether the garden needs to be redesigned to need less maintenance and how much, if any help, is needed. Tuesday Group are always happy to help out with odd jobs on the vicarage site and will be able to help on an ad hoc basis for discrete projects or tasks as before, but do not have the time or manpower to provide a regular, predictable or comprehensive garden maintenance service.
- 13.5 Church Calendar: a prototype church calendar has been created to display events as an annual 'events card', not to be confused with a practical day-to-day diary maintained by the Parish Administrator. This is something to explore with the new Vicar.

ACTION: Chair

14. Any other business

- 14.1 Smarties will be paused this term, as we have so few children of the right age. This was agreed with input from the people who run Smarties, the young people and their parents and the CYP group. Lucy Hatt, who organised the Smarties rota, has also stepped down. We will wait until the Vicar has started to find out how she would like to proceed.
- 14.2 Deanery Synod met on 18 July; Izzy McDonald-Booth, Mike de la Hunt and Kay Plumley attended. This was the first meeting led by the new Area Dean, Reverend Paul Baker and included appointments of Deanery Lay Chair and the election of a Deanery Secretary. Reports were received from the last Diocesan Synod and the summer sitting of General Synod. Minutes, when released, will be shared.
- 14.3 CYP have suggested an all-age service be held once the Vicar is in post. A living nativity for young people and families around the streets of Jesmond has been proposed for Saturday 14 December, subject to the availability of a donkey(!).
15. The meeting closed at 9.25 pm with The Grace.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

PCC Meeting	Deadline for Agenda items
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:

2 October	Rehearsal for the Vicar's Installation, St George's Church, 7.30 pm
7 October	Installation of Revd Debbie Loughran as Vicar of the Benefice of St George and St Hilda, St George's 7.30 pm
7 December	Christmas Market
14 December	Living Nativity (tbc)

ACTION LOG

Meeting	Item	Action	Status
24-04	12.3	Churchwardens to liaise with new incumbent on the vicarage gardens	
24-07	9.4	Kay to explore with Diocesan appointees re our contribution towards the Net Zero plans	
24-07	12.1	Enid to communicate appointment of Architect	
24-07	12.2	Enid to engage contractor to complete boiler work	
24-07	14.2	Enid to ensure we have an accident book and that it is being kept up-to-date	
24-09	6.1	Secretary to put removal of the sign regarding dogs to be put to PCC for vote	
24-09	6.2	Chair to move accident book to Churchwardens' desk	
24-09	8.3	Churchwardens to explore roles of deputies and others with Vicar, with view to an open workshop	
24-09	9.2	Chair to enquire about electronic lock for office	
24-09	9.4	Chair to inform Bell Ringers that Code adopted and should be displayed	
24-09	10.1	Treasurer to add the new Vicar to the Lloyds account as signatory; and ask if Kay or Mike would remain on account	
24-09	11.1	Ian Ness to explore lighting options with Ian Spencer	
24-09	13.3	Chair to write to Geoff White on his retirement	
24-09	13.5	Chair to explore the 'calendar' with the new Vicar	
NEW ACTION		COMPLETED	NOT YET COMPLETED (UP TO 4 MONTHS)
			NOT YET COMPLETED (OVER 4 MONTHS)