



The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

Parochial Church Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 4 July 2023

at 7.30 pm in the Nave of St George's Church

Present: Hilary Cullingford, The Reverend Ollie Dempsey, Joan Grenfell, Graham Hatt, Lana Liu, Ian Ness, Kay Plumley, Nigel Russell-Sewell (Secretary), Margaret Vane, Sue Vernon, Alex Walker, Janet Wilson.

Apologies: Mike de la Hunt, Donald Gaze, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Enid Pearson, Mike Ranson (Treasurer).

In attendance: The Reverend Dr Pauline Pearson (The Area Dean)

St Hilda's PCC: Cynthia Abraham, Phil Bowe, Lesley Dinning, Marjorie Dodds, Philippa Plummer, Jane Young, Richard Young.

Apologies: Diane Packham

1. The Reverend Ollie Dempsey opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Graham Hatt (Acting Lay Vice-Chair) welcomed the Reverend Dr Pauline Pearson, the Area Dean, and members of St Hilda's PCC.
3. Apologies were noted.
4. **Election of Lay Vice-Chair**
 - 4.1 One candidate, Janet Wilson (Churchwarden), was proposed by Kay Plumley and seconded by Hilary Cullingford. There was unanimous approval.
5. **Declaration of Interests**
 - 5.1 None

**A JOINT MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCILS OF
ST GEORGE'S, JESMOND AND ST HILDA'S, JESMOND**

6. The Interregnum

- 6.1 Service rota: The Revd Ollie Dempsey confirmed a rota was in place to the end of August. The Area Dean will work with the wardens and clergy to make sure there is cover for both St George's and St Hilda's. Although there may be some occasions where it may be difficult to provide cover, especially for some mid-week services, the Area Dean will act under advisement on which services may be appropriate to suspend; noting, however, that there are a good number of retired clergy in the Deanery who will be able to provide cover.
- 6.2 Graham Hatt asked about the 11.30 am (BCP) on the first Sunday of the month which only attracts a small congregation. The Area Dean and wardens will keep this under review. It was noted that there is a danger if services are cut that they might disappear, so we should try to maintain the services as they are wherever possible.
- 6.3 Timeline: The Chair reported on a conversation with the Archdeacon on Monday. It was noted that the Bishop is keen to meet PCCs and has requested a Section 12 meeting on 27 November. The process and proposed timeline is:
- Late October/early November: Section 11 meeting with the Archdeacon to agree the Parish Profiles
 - Monday 27 November: Section 12 meeting with the Bishop and Archdeacon to agree all paperwork relating to the post, including the role description and person specification
 - Friday 26 January 2024: Closing date for applications
 - Thursday 1 February: Shortlisting meeting
 - Wednesday 28 February: Parish visits and interviews
- 6.4 The Chair noted that this timeline is not what the Archdeacon outlined at the previous meeting, but it had been intimated that the Bishop was reviewing the process. The revised timeline means the benefice would be without a vicar for approximately one year. Concern was raised that after six months there is a danger that we might lose members of the congregation and significantly impact our £1.3m Community Hub fundraising timeline. The Archdeacon is reflecting on this and will consider revising the timeline through consultation with the Bishop's office.
- 6.5 Parish Profile: The Area Dean recommended both PCCs look at different parish profiles to see how others have approached these. With reference to the questions in Paper 2307-A, the starting point would be to think about main priorities for the two parishes: what is similar and what is different? How might things look in five years' time? What characteristics are most important in a Vicar? The descriptive part of the profile will be similar to last time, but the statistics will be different. It was clarified that two profiles are required: one from St George's and one from St Hilda's. The two profiles will be submitted as one document. Some elements of the two profiles may be very similar, while demographics will be quite different. The Area Dean

recommended the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts be included. It is important to be realistic about challenges and opportunities.

6.6 Church Activities (Question 7): the following were noted on flipchart in no particular order [noting this list is not exhaustive and there will be other activities]:

St Hilda's	St George's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral visitors • Knit and natter • Sacred Space • Lent study group with URC • Flower festival • Christmas Tree competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18-30's group • Smarties • Little Saints • Friday café • Beavers and Scouts • Junior and Adult Choirs • Community Choir • Sing and Socialise • Walking Group • Cycling Group • Book Group • Lent groups • Tuesday maintenance • Pastoral Visitors • Seeking Sanctuary support • Care home Ministry • Anna Chaplain • Street Pastors • Friends of St George's • Music & organ restoration • Vintage Teas with URC • Links with Children Northeast • WERS and People's Kitchen • Summer Fete • Christmas Market • Big Friendly Gatherings

6.7 Ministry (Question 8): This should refer to all members of ministry team: the Assistant Curate, Readers, RAF Chaplain, Anna Chaplain, Parish Administrator, Reader-in-Training; servers.

6.8 The Revd Ollie Dempsey noted that he has been reading a number of parish profiles: language is important. For example, at St George's: "We are an inclusive Anglican church in the catholic tradition".

6.9 The Area Dean recommended a small group write sections of the profiles and include photographs of events that have taken place over the last five or so years. By all means take advice from the Assistant Curate, but it is not appropriate for him to write the profile.

- 6.10 Finance (Question 9): Mike Ranson (Treasurer) has drafted this section on behalf of St George's. The Area Dean advised to be honest and realistic, showing awareness of responsibility. The Deanery see St George's and St Hilda's as a strong benefice that can continue to grow in ministry with the right person as Vicar; a position that is not replicated elsewhere in the deanery or diocese. Once the draft is in place, we should check the language overall, and that it is positive and attractive.
- 6.11 Community involvement (Question 10): Draw on links to the primary school in St Hilda's parish, the private schools that use St George's for Christmas carol services. There are many weddings. There are a number of residential care homes near St George's and there is contact through the church community. Links with local businesses near St Hilda's. Local traders support the fetes, Coronation gathering, Christmas tree festival and other events in both parishes. St George's has relationship with local tennis and cricket club.
- 6.12 Relationships with neighbouring parishes (Question 11): highlight that we are trying to work more collaboratively in outreach and youth work as outlined in the Deanery Plan. The Deanery is signed up to net zero, and it is important this is reflected in the document. Members have not had sight of the Deanery Plan.

**ACTION: Deanery Reps to provide PCC Secretary
with the Deanery Plan for circulation**

- 6.13 Ecumenical relationships (Question 12): the clergy meet regularly. Churches Together has not met since the pandemic.
- 6.14 The Parish and the future (Question 13): where is each PCC currently with its Mission Action Plans? Where would it like to be in the next five years? St George's has an engaged 18-30's group amidst a large student community that is growing. It is important to enable this group to flourish across both parishes. All agreed this was a priority area. The Community Hub should be complete in five years: we need to be able to articulate its objectives and there could be an opportunity to link the two parishes. Member(s) of St Hilda's would be welcome to join the steering group. This section should consider our involvement in other aspects of the community, such as the library. The church as building and the church as people. Children, families and young people. Eco church is important to St George's. The document should remain focused and appear exciting to the reader and not be a long list of 'things'.
- 6.15 The new parish priest (Question 14): what qualities are we looking for? Wisdom; experience; a "fabulous pantomime dame"; a woman?; open-minded to changes in society; family and young people oriented; visible in the community; someone who will bring back music to St Hilda's; someone who will support the musical tradition of St George's thrive and grow; leadership qualities; recognise the resource they have in the congregation; someone with youth and energy; good with people; a communicator with all ages; intellectual rigour; a person of prayer; kindness; openness.
- 6.16 All the points noted above, 6.6-6.15, can be used as a starting point to generate the Parish Profile.

- 6.17 Actions were agreed by all below to provide draft responses to the questions in the Parish Profiles:

Question	Person(s) to draft
1. The local community	Kay Plumley and Churchwardens
2. The church community	Churchwardens
3. Statistics	Churchwardens
4. Church buildings	Churchwardens
5. Patterns of worship	The Revd Ollie Dempsey
6. Church tradition	Alex Walker & Izzy McDonald-Booth
7. Church activities	Margaret Vane & Janet Wilson
8. Ministry	The Revd Ollie Dempsey
9. Finance	The two parish Treasurers
10. Community involvement	Lesley Dinning & Joan Grenfell
11. Relationships with neighbouring parishes	Deanery Synod Representatives
12. Ecumenical relationships	The Revd Ollie Dempsey
13. The parish and the future	Janet Wilson
14. The new parish priest	Janet Wilson
15. Parsonage	Churchwardens
Photographs to highlight activities	Margaret Vane

- 6.18 First drafts to the questions to be submitted by **midday** on **Monday 31 July** to the PCC Secretary (pccsec@stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk) for collation. The Wardens will then unify the language before the completed draft is made available to congregations for comment.

ACTIONS: All as outlined in 6.17 and 6.18

7. Property Costs relating to the Vicarage

- 7.1 A paper [2307-B] had been received from the Treasurer, not present at the meeting. To consider the proposals in the paper and record a decision for action.
- 7.2 Members of St Hilda's PCC agreed to pay the sum of £920 towards costs of St George's Vicarage. This sum included arrears of £660 in respect of 2021, the remainder being the contribution to 7 July 2023. A revised invoice was provided to St Hilda's PCC by the Parish Administrator.

- 7.3 Both PCCs agreed that the annual apportionment of costs by St Hilda's PCC be 15% of Council Tax, Water Rates, Telephone and broadband costs for the Vicarage from the date the property becomes occupied by the new Vicar, but that this should remain under review.

ACTION: The Treasurer to remain in contact with St Hilda's PCC

- 7.4 It was noted that the Diocese pay utilities and insurance costs. The house belongs to the Diocese and someone will check the building on a regular basis. A comment was made that the telephone and broadband costs are expensive – this is something for the new incumbent to consider.

8. Request to assist Jesmond Methodist Church

- 8.1 Jesmond Methodist Church have requested assistance with use of a space to hold their Sunday services between 10 September and 15 October inclusive. Following discussions between the Churchwardens and the Assistant Curate, Jesmond Methodist Church have been offered the use of St George's Church for Sunday services at 11 am, with the exception of Sunday 1 October when there will be a joint Anglican-Methodist service at St George's at 9.30 am; this will enable the 11.30 am BCP service to take place. The facilities at St George's will enable the Methodist Church to livestream their services, and to use the hall for coffee. There would be no charges made for using the facilities.

9. Future Joint Meetings

- 9.1 Two formal joint meetings have been proposed by the Archdeacon's Office:

Wednesday 8 November 2023 – Section 11, Chaired by the Archdeacon

Monday 27 November 2023 – Section 12, Chaired by the Bishop

These are subject to confirmation and may change.

- 9.2 The Chair thanked the Area Dean for her guidance. The Area Dean noted that she would be in touch with the Churchwardens in the near future.
- 9.3 On conclusion of the joint business of both PCCs, members of St Hilda's PCC were invited to depart. The Area Dean also departed.

**MEETING OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF
ST GEORGE'S, JESMOND**

10. Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 May 2023, approval and Matters Arising

10.1 The minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 30 May 2023 [Paper 2307-C] were approved. Proposed: Ian Ness; Seconded: Alex Walker.

10.2 The Action log was reviewed:

2305-2: Net Zero to remain in action log for consideration on receipt of report

2305-5.b: Tree works. The Buildings and Project Group have received a report commissioned and undertaken by an Arboriculturist consultant and obtained four quotations for the necessary works as identified on the report. The appointed contractor has provided an initial quote of ~£500 (excluding VAT). However, a number of queries have been raised which may mean the final price may increase. The Group expect the worse case price to be £1,000 (excluding VAT). In this case, this would still be more competitive than the other three quotations received. The PCC is asked to approve the works to ensure there are no issues with respect to insurance in the immediate future based on a "what if" scenario. The PCC was asked to approve expenditure up to £1,000 (excluding VAT). Proposed: Kay Plumley; Seconded: Sue Vernon. Unanimous agreement.

ACTION: The Secretary to inform Derek Nicholson of the outcome

2305-5.c: Janet Wilson confirmed with Louise Chapman and Margaret Vane that they are willing to serve on the Charitable Giving Group; and Jonathan has actioned payments approved at the APCM.

2305-6: Izzy McDonald-Booth and Janet Wilson will act as line managers for the employees of St George's PCC.

2305-7.1: Mike de la Hunt, Kay Plumley and Janet Wilson have provided bank signatory details to the Treasurer, and an authorisation letter has been signed.

2305-8: Nigel Russell-Sewell and Alex Walker to meet Parish Safeguarding Officer to discuss Social Media Policy and live-streaming (not yet completed)

2305-8: The PCC have agreed for clarity, that the PCC does not support, and will not adopt, the CYP Lone Worker policy; all lone working procedures are covered by existing lone working policies which are consonant with those of the Diocese of Newcastle. It has been

confirmed that no-one at St George's is carrying out any lone working with children activity.

11. Standing item: Safeguarding

- 11.1 Sue Vernon noted the Diocese is looking at reviewing DBFs every three years. Training records kept by the Diocese are fragmented and Sue is checking the records for each member of the PCC.

ACTION: Sue Vernon to update PCC Secretary in confidence

12. Standing item: Finance

- 12.1 The Treasurer was not present at the meeting. A paper [2307-D] had been submitted. The contents were noted. No questions were raised.

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

- 13.1 The Chair reported that the Steering Committee met last week and are inviting tenders for the extension to the church. The internal design of the hall is complicated by the Listed building status. The committee is checking needs of user groups.
- 13.2 All members of the PCC were invited to support the Community Hub with donations, pledges, and volunteering as they are able, and to encourage others.
- 13.3 Heritage Open Days will be on 8-9 September. Barbara Peacock will be putting on a display, the bellringers will be present, and there will be other activities. A talk on the architecture of St George's will be put on in the coming months.

14. The Friends of St George's

- 14.1 The Chair reported that the Constitution of The Friends of St George's required the PCC to formally approve the election of Trustees to the Friends. At their recent Annual Meeting the following were elected: Barbara Peacock, Mike de la Hunt, Hilary Pitkethly, Sue Melbourne and Paul Taylor. The PCC unanimously approved those elected as Trustees of The Friends of St George's.

ACTION: The Secretary to inform Mrs Peacock

15. Any other business

- 15.1 Kay Plumley highlighted the Biodiversity Review [Paper 2307-E] and the opportunity to do our bit for creation in the stewardship of our grounds. Suitable wildflower areas will be planted by a student over the summer.
- 15.2 Kay Plumley thanked all involved in securing the Silver Eco-Award for St George's [Paper 2307-G], including Graham for upgrading the heating in the hall; the Eco

group; Mike de la Hunt; Enid Pearson; the Ministry team; and Smarties. The PCC has committed to working towards the Gold Eco-Award, but this requires significant work and challenges. The Chair thanked all involved.

- 15.3 The Buildings and Project Group reported: that works to replace or repair the speed humps has been completed; that the fence behind the church has been reinstated by the tennis club; and that a notice was sent to the City Council Planning Portal regarding the proposals made by the tennis club for additional lighting and a phone mast.
 - 15.4 The Bishop will be preaching at Evensong on Sunday 15 October.
 - 15.5 The Chair thanked Graham for all his work as Churchwarden, particularly in his final year as the sole warden managing a large portfolio of duties; a round of applause was offered by all present.
16. The Reverend Ollie Dempsey closed the meeting at 9.50 pm with The Grace.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 2 August 2023 – St George’s PCC
- Monday 4 September 2023 – St George’s PCC
- Tuesday 3 October 2023 – St George’s PCC
- Monday 23 October 2023 – Section 11 Meeting with Archdeacon
- Wednesday 29 November 2023 – Section 12 Meeting with +Newcastle
- Monday 4 December 2023 – St George’s PCC

All meetings will begin at 7.30 pm. Venues will be notified.

ACTION LOG

Meeting	Item	Action	Status
23-05	2	Net Zero to remain in action log for consideration on receipt of report (received 23-07 for future discussion)	
23-05	8	Nigel Russell-Sewell and Alex Walker to review Social Media Policy	
23-07	6.12	Deanery Representatives to provide PCC Secretary with the Deanery Plan for circulation	
23-07	6.18	All to prepare draft Parish Profiles as outlined in 6.17 and 6.18	
23-07	7.3	St George's Treasurer to keep in touch with St Hilda's PCC over apportionment of costs for the Vicarage	
23-07	10.2	PCC Secretary to inform Derek Nicholson of decision regarding the tree works	
23-07	11.1	Sue Vernon to update PCC Secretary of training records, in confidence	
23-07	14.1	PCC Secretary to inform Mrs Peacock of formal approval of Friends trustees	

	New action
	Completed
	Not yet completed (up to 4 months)
	Not yet completed (over 4 months)