



# The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

## Parochial Church Council

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 7 February 2024**

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

**Present:** Kay Plumley, Nigel Russell-Sewell (Secretary), Margaret Vane, Sue Vernon, Janet Wilson (Chair).

**Apologies:** Hilary Cullingford, Donald Gaze, Joan Grenfell, Mike de la Hunt, Lana Liu, Izzy McDonald-Booth, The Reverend Canon Clare McLaren, Ian Ness, Enid Pearson, Mike Ranson (Treasurer).

1. The Chair opened the meeting with prayer and remembered His Majesty The King.
2. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. It was verified that sufficient elected members were present for the meeting to be quorate.
3. Apologies were noted. The majority of those absent were taking part in St George's Pantomime; future PCCs should avoid meeting in the week of the performances.
4. Received: formal notification from Alex Walker of his resignation from Deanery Synod, and therefore PCC, due to his move to Durham. The PCC thanked Alex for all he had contributed and wished him every success in his future. The Secretary has written to Alex on behalf of the PCC, and notified the Parish Administrator that an election to Deanery Synod for the remainder of Alex's term should be held at the Annual Meeting in April.

#### **5. Declaration of Interests**

- 5.1 No conflicts of interest were declared.

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

- 6.1 The minutes of the PCC Meeting held on 9 January were approved. Proposed: Kay Plumley, seconded: Margaret Vane. All approved.

**7. Matters arising and action log**

- 7.1 Under 24-01 9.6, a review of planned giving ‘event’ would be held after Easter. A full stewardship campaign should be deferred until a new incumbent is in post.

**ACTION: Churchwardens**

**8. Lectern steps**

- 8.1 Decision: The PCC had considered the options of metal or oak rails and unanimously agreed that oak would match the pulpit and be more in keeping. Ian Ness is asked to take the design to the DAC.

**ACTION: Ian Ness**

**9. Standing item: Safeguarding**

- 9.1 Safeguarding Officers and clergy have attended spiritual abuse training. This has been well received.
- 9.2 The poster was in abeyance while a diocesan approach is under consideration. Agreed that there would be male and female faces on posters (Drs Vernon and Rutt). In addition, two “safe spaces” posters would be displayed in the toilets.
- 9.3 Proposed: posters highlighting the issue of human trafficking be displayed on the estate. Agreed.

**ACTION: Safeguarding Officer**

- 9.4 A Domestic Abuse Champion is required by the Church of England. The Reverend Bryan Vernon is to be invited to consider resuming this position.

**ACTION: Chair**

**10. Standing item: Finance**

- 10.1 Reported: the electronic piano had been purchased. Should there be a cost towards the disposal of the old pianos, the PCC unanimously agreed fund this.

**ACTION: Secretary**

- 10.2 In the absence of the Honorary Treasurer there were no other matters under finance.

## **11. Standing item: Estates Group**

- 11.1 Notes had been received by the Chair who gave a verbal overview. Suggested: where the Estates group make decisions with substantial financial implications that such activity needs to be under Trustee scrutiny. The auditable evidence for this oversight requires an agreed written record of key points which can be recorded as part of the PCC minutes. The Chair to discuss with the Estates Group.

**ACTION: Chair**

- 11.2 Noted: the Diocese has just published “a short guide to net-zero grants” which could help provide funding for small amounts of money up to £10,000. This could, for example, be a source of funding for changing the LEDs. Details to be circulated to the PCC.

**ACTION: Secretary**

## **12. Standing item: St George’s Community Hub 2025**

- 12.1 The Hub Steering Group meeting notes are to be circulated with these minutes.

**ACTION: Secretary**

- 12.2 A joint meeting will be held on 12 March 2024 with the Hub and Estates groups. PCC members are invited to submit questions or areas they would like to hear about or discuss, in advance to Janet Wilson by Friday 8 March.

**ACTION: All PCC Members**

- 12.3 Noted: the hall may in future be appropriate for a café venue, with the caveat that footfall is not necessarily sufficient in the area.

## **13. Churchwarden updates**

- 13.1 Received: a statement from the Bishop of Berwick: *“Unfortunately following this first round of advertising, we did not receive applications from the wider field of candidates we expected for the Vicar of St George and St Hilda. After serious consideration, the Bishop of Berwick and the Interview Panel unanimously decided the best course of action is to re-advertise the post as soon as possible with a new timeline for applications, shortlisting and interviews. Applications received from this first round of advertising will be held on file and reconsidered in the new timeline. We continue to trust that God is calling the right person to serve as Vicar of our parishes and would ask you to keep this process in your prayers.”*

- 13.2 Reported: further to this announcement Enid has very generously confirmed that she will remain as churchwarden throughout the vacancy. In all likelihood therefore this means St George's will be seeking a new churchwarden at the APCM in April 2025 (replacing Enid) and in April 2026 (replacing Janet).

13.3 The revised timetable is as follows:

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 10 April

Shortlisting meeting: Wednesday 24 April

Parish visits & interviews: Tuesday 4 June

13.4 Noted: the Chair has prepared the clergy rota to the end of September.

#### 14. Any other business

14.1 Notes of 'Thanks' to the PCC have been received, and will be published in The Lance:

a. Chris Lincoln (Jesmond Street Pastors) writes: "Thank you so much for the gift, it is really appreciated and enables us to purchase more stock of foil blankets, first aid kit etc."

b. Angela Abrahams (Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed) writes: "On behalf of the Trustees and Staff I am writing to thank everyone at St George's for their generous donation of £200 towards our work. Your continued support is much appreciated".

14.2 A note had been received from Izzy McDonald-Booth: "Thank you so much for funding my cassock and surplice, this was unexpectedly generous and I am very grateful! Thank you so much."

15. The meeting closed at 9.15 pm with The Grace.

### DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>PCC Meeting</b>	<b>Deadline for Agenda items</b>
<i>Tuesday 12 March 2024</i>	<i>Joint meeting with Hub Steering Group and Estates Group</i>
Tuesday 09 April 2024	Sunday 31 March 2024, midday
Sunday 28 April 2024 - ANNUAL MEETINGS (separate notice)	
Monday 13 May 2024	Sunday 05 May 2024, midday

All meetings will begin at 7.30 pm. Venue will be confirmed in the agenda papers.

*Note: The March PCC meeting has been replaced with a joint meeting with the Hub Steering Group and the Buildings and Grounds Group and will be held in **St Hilda's Church**.*

**Further dates to note:**

31 March 2024	Easter Sunday, farewell party for Canon Clare
8 April	St George’s Choir to sing the Eucharist at Durham Cathedral (5.30 pm – and may be live-streamed via Facebook)
10 April	Hub fundraising lecture by John North
24 May	Summer night with ‘Elvis’

**ACTION LOG**

Meeting	Item	Action	Status
23-09	11.3	Kay to make application to Community Foundation	
23-09	11.4	Kay to ask Council to change their mowing schedule	
24-01	8.1	Safeguarding Officer to prepare safeguarding poster	
24-01	9.3	Joan Grenfell to make enquiries to Friday Singing Group	
24-01	12.4	Enid Pearson to fulfil requirements of Parish Inspection	
24-02	7.1	Churchwardens to arrange “planned giving event” after Easter	
24-02	8.1	Ian Ness to take Lectern steps plans to DAC for approval	
24-02	9.3	Safeguarding Officer to display trafficking posters	
24-02	9.4	Chair to invite Bryan Vernon to become Domestic Abuse Chaplain	
24-02	10.1	Secretary to inform Director of Music of decision	
24-02	11.1	Chair to discuss with Estates Group how best to provide updates to PCC	
24-02	11.2	Secretary to circulate guide to net-zero grants	
24-02	12.1	Secretary to circulate Hub Steering Group notes	
24-02	12.2	All PCC members to submit questions to Janet re Hub	
New action		Completed	Not yet completed (up to 4 months)
			Not yet completed (over 4 months)