

11th May 2025



Annual Reports and Accounts
for the Parochial Church
Council of St. George's,
Jesmond, for the year ending
31st December 2024



Parochial Church Council of St. George's, Jesmond
Registered Charity No. 1132758

Aim and Purpose

St. George's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Debbie Loughran (since October 2024), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, the Church Hall, Tower House, Close house, and the Green.

Objectives and Activities

St George's seeks to be an Inclusive Church and has set the following areas of focus for our energies:

- Open and welcoming church community
- Inclusive and traditional worship
- Questioning and nurturing faith
- Relevant and engaged in the wider world

PCC Members who served during 2024

Ex Officio

Incumbent: Reverend Debbie Loughran (from October 2024)

Curate: Reverend Oliver Dempsey (to April 2024)

Interim Minister: Reverend Canon Clare MacLaren (to March 2024)

Lay Reader and Anna Chaplain: Joan Grenfell

Churchwardens: Enid Pearson (2023-2025), Janet Wilson (2023-2026)

General Synod: Canon Izzy McDonald-Booth

Lay Representatives on Deanery Synod: Mike de la Hunt (2020-2026), Kay Plumley (2020-2026), Alex Walker (to February 2024)

Treasurer: Mike Ranson

Elected Members

Hilary Cullingford (2022-2025)

Donald Gaze (2023-2026)

Lana Liu (2023-2026)

Alison Mattinson (2024-2027)

Ian Ness (2022-2025)

Nigel Russell-Sewell (2023-2026)

Brent Swinburne (2024-2027)

Sue Vernon (to April 2024)

Margaret Vane (2022-2025)

Secretary: Nigel Russell-Sewell

Administrative Information

St George's Church is located on St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF.

Correspondence should be sent to the Vicar at St George's Vicarage, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF; or The Parish Office, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF.

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Electoral Roll Report

The revision of the Electoral Roll was completed on 14th April 2025. The roll contains 159 names; 80 are resident in the parish and 79 are non-resident.

In April 2024 the roll contained 206 names - there have been 17 additions and 64 deletions since then.

The secretaries of the Diocesan and Deanery Synod have been duly informed of the current roll numbers.

Margaret Baron, Electoral Roll Officer

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Vicar's Report

Jeremiah 29:11

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’

In January 2024 I was happily serving 6 parishes in Telford, Diocese of Lichfield as Vicar and more parishes as Area Dean. I was engaged in many Diocesan committees and serving as a Bishop's Advisor for Ministry. If you had told me then that 10 months later I would have moved 218 miles north and have been licenced to 2 parishes in Jesmond, Diocese of Newcastle I would have laughed. But here I was, licensed on 7th October 2025 to St George's and St Hilda's Jesmond.

It was an amazing call from God to move and an amazing service to arrive to, thank you for all the work that went into making it all possible.

Since then I have sought to get to know people, if we haven't already met please do drop me an email and let's arrange a coffee.

We have done so much, shared so much, laughed a lot and gathered together. We have planned and executed those plans, we have done things which were tried and tested and have tried new things too; trusting that God would meet us where we were.

And this will be the story of 2025 too. There will be successes and things which don't work out as we hoped or expected; but through it all we hold on to the Gospel, which doesn't promise us it will be easy, but does promise that it will be worth it.

A short Vicar's report this year, next will be longer as we explore together our call to love and serve the people of our parish.

May we know the guiding of the Holy Spirit as we step out in faith into the future trusting in God to lead us.

Rev Debbie Loughran

Parochial Church Council Report

A lively discussion on “getting out of fossil fuels in our church” was held January 2024 in preparation for the Eco Group presentation to the congregation held in February. PCC received the designs for the lectern steps, prepared by Ian Ness, and requested these be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for approval.

News was received in February that the first round of advertising the vacancy for Vicar had not been successful along with a revised timeline for advertising, shortlisting and interviews. Now that PCC no longer had to spend time on the vacancy, meetings reverted to one every two months. The PCC also received Alex Walker’s resignation as Deanery Synod Representative due to his new role in the Diocese of Durham, thanked him for his contributions to the PCC and wished him well.

March saw a special meeting of the PCC with the Estates Group, and the Hub Steering Group where we heard from the Jesmond Community Forum Treasurer on the importance of St George’s estate to the community. Our fundraising consultant, Paul Baird, introduced himself and presented an overview of fundraising strategy for the project. Progress to date was received along with an opportunity to review the architect’s plans.

The April meeting received the annual accounts in preparation for the Annual Meetings and received news from the Archdeacon that Ian Ness’s plan for the lectern steps had been approved.

Following the Annual Meetings, PCC welcomed Alison Mattinson and Brent Swinburne to their first meeting in May. Officials were appointed: Janet Wilson (Lay Chair), Nigel Russell-Sewell (Honorary Secretary), Mike Ranson (Honorary Treasurer). PCC approved amended Lone Worker Guidance, the Legacy Policy and the Conflict of Interest Policy.

PCC greeted the news that The Reverend Debbie Loughran had been appointed Vicar to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda with great delight at its July meeting. Thanks were given to the Representatives of St George’s who played an important role in the selection and interview process. PCC received a report on the Diocese of Newcastle Net Zero Action Plan. PCC also agreed the Memorandum of Understanding with the United Reformed Church to enable the organ project to commence.

The focus of the September meeting was the installation of the new Vicar. A new Safeguarding Code for Bell Ringing was received and formally adopted by the PCC. Repairs to the boiler had been made. Ian Ness designed and commissioned the new lectern steps, in memory of Miss Ann Biles. Thanks were given to Geoff White who retired as Bell Captain after many years’ service. John Markham was welcomed as the new Bell Captain. It was agreed that Smarties would be paused due to numbers attending, and would be reviewed when the new Vicar is in post.

The final meeting of the year, in November, heralded the first of the Vicar as Chair. PCC had been considering the signage on the Green regarding “no dogs” for some time. After

considerable discussion, it was agreed that signage be removed and reviewed annually each May. It was agreed that a Gift Audit be carried out in early 2025 to discern talents in the church community. Discussion of the Parish Share paid annually to the Diocese concluded with PCC agreeing to pay the full amount of £97,200 requested in 2025.

Every PCC meeting has 'standing items' on the agenda that must be considered at each meeting: Safeguarding; Finance; Building and Grounds Group; and St George's Community Hub. Minutes are published on the St George's website following approval and can be read at: <https://www.stgeorgesjesmond.org.uk/about/#the-pcc>.

Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell
PCC Secretary (Honorary)

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SEEKING

Inclusive Church Statement

"We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms** every person and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**.

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

<https://www.inclusive-church.org/the-ic-statement/>

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Bellringers' Report

The band of Bellringers has remained largely unchanged throughout the year thus enabling us to meet our ringing commitments. In addition to regular Sunday service ringing, we have rung for four weddings, the D-Day 80th Anniversary and the Jesmond Festival and the Vicar's licensing.

Geoff White, tower captain, stood down after 15 years of service but continues to support ringing each week. I was asked to take on the role and took over in September 2024. I have been ringing for nearly forty years and joined the band in the previous year when my personal situation allowed.

A number of our ringers help out at other local churches and in particular ring at St. James and Basil Fenham, on Sunday mornings after ringing at St George's. The bellringers

enjoyed a day out in the summer when they visited four churches in the Tyne valley and rang the bells. This was a first for some of the band. It was not all work as food was also involved.

Training plays an important role in developing the skills and knowledge of the band as a whole. Some additional practice sessions were organised towards the end of the year and that continues. Bells, as with any musical instrument, take several months to master and then followed by a lifetime of learning. I am pleased to say that we have recruited a new member to the band who was taught from scratch in the latter part of the year.

The condition of the bells and fittings remain largely in good order with little work being necessary throughout the year. It is important to check the bell fittings regularly, only a few bolts had to be tightened and a couple of Ash stays replaced. The bell ropes do have a limited life, typically 8 to 10 years, and currently there are no spares in the tower. Next year will see us having to start provisioning for replacements, if a large cost is to be avoided in a single year.

As we move forward, we plan to develop the band's ability further, which will hopefully lead to more positive comments from all those who stop and listen to us. My thanks to all the band for their attendance and their support in my first year as St George's church tower captain.

John Markham, Tower Captain

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Eco Group Report

Having already achieved "Silver" level in the Eco Award scheme we have, during the past year, carried out further work to maintain our Silver status. In particular, we have tidied the area on the eastern side of the car park, removing old undergrowth and replanting. Bug hotels have been positioned on the boundary wall. A policy of "no mow May" has been adopted on the Green to encourage biodiversity.

During the year awareness events on sustainable transport and "Net Zero in Church" have been held during coffee after the 9.30 service, also greater prominence is given to environmental and sustainability issues as part of the general activities of the church.

We have received a number of budgetary proposals for electric heating in the church. As indicated in last year's report we consider the future heating system will feature a combination of under-pew electric heaters and low temperature electric heating panels appropriately located around the building, essentially heating the people rather than the building. We have conducted a series of visits to other churches to consider what they are doing.

A key issue is power supply, the present electricity supply is inadequate for electrical heating. A new power supply will also be required for the proposed church extension. Until the proposed extension is a reality further work on electric heating is in abeyance.

We have a further five years before we need to meet “net zero”, giving us time consider and review technologies and cost, in what is a developing market.

A more recent development to reduce energy consumption has been to replace the lighting in both the church and hall with low energy LED bulbs. We received from the Diocese a grant of £2,800 to cover the costs of the church pendants. The installation was organised by Building & Grounds.

Other items include:

- We looked at the provision of runner cushions for the pews but the PCC was not in favour.
- The church gas meter has now been changed to a smart meter, making monitoring simpler.
- The provision of electric car chargers in our parking area was discussed with the PCC but the loss of parking spaces v's the income was not attractive.
- The recycling signage/bins in the Hall are much clearer and the bins are now better used (although Hall users are still not great at recycling).

John Clark, on behalf of the Eco Group



Environmental Policy

St. George's Church accepts responsibility for its effects on the environment and is committed to reduce them. As your local Church of England (Anglican) church, one of our Five Marks of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of Creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The key points of our strategy to achieve this are:

- a. Frequently emphasise God's love for Creation and our stewardship of nature, through our worship and teaching.
- b. Understand and minimise the impact of our church activities, land and buildings on the environment, especially on the climate and biodiversity.
- c. Implement an awareness program for our congregation, volunteers and staff to enlist their support in improving the church's impact on the environment.
- d. Measure our carbon footprint and set targets for ongoing improvement which achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Understand what would be required to reach this target and draw up an economically sensible action plan to achieve it.
- e. Use future plans to reduce our environmental impact.
- f. Engage with other churches, the Diocese of Newcastle, the Church of England and other local and national partners to understand and follow best environmental practice & guidance in the context of listed church buildings, to secure their help and partnership to get the work done and to hold the national Church to account.
- g. Collaborate with people and groups from our local community on environmental initiatives.
- h. Establish and maintain an Eco Group, chartered by the Parochial Church Council to bring environmental issues and concerns forward to them on a regular basis; with agreed membership, accountability and resources.
- i. Follow the Eco Church programme, aiming to achieve Gold certification by 2030
- j. Ensure compliance with all relevant environmental legislation.

Signed: 

Dated: April 2025

Chair of the Parochial Church Council

Review: This policy will be reviewed each year at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

SHARING

Children and Young People Report

Background: What the PCC has chartered the CYP to do/ team members this year

The purpose of the CYP is to 'Help to deliver the Church Vision for children & young people, especially to meet their spiritual & worshipping needs'. Team members throughout the year were Alison, Kay, Lana and Sarah, with Sue Vernon keeping in close touch in an advisory capacity as Safeguarding Officer. Canon Clare left the parish during the year, with much gratitude for her work with children, while she was with us. Rhona Watts, Sue Melbourne and of course Debbie Loughran joined the team during the year.

Highlights

All Age Worship

Who can forget the many all-age worship services this year? Canon Clare led a car journey on Mothering Sunday with contributions from the Junior Choir and many members of the congregation. Malcolm Railton was in charge for Pentecost, with members of the congregation speaking in tongues – no shortage of foreign language speakers at St. George's. We were delighted to welcome Debbie into the CYP group in October. She organised Christ the King Sunday in November, with a retelling of King Josiah's story – Floyd stealing the day as the young King Josiah inspecting the church and the people. The teamwork during those services reflects the strong connections between different age groups in our congregation.

Smarties

After the person who organised the rota for Smarties stepped down in the summer, a questionnaire was circulated to affected young people and their parents about whether to continue having 2 people available each Sunday to run the Smarties group. As a result of the general feeling that the young people we have are involved directly in the services (serving, live stream etc), a recommendation was made to the PCC to discontinue Smarties. This was accepted with regret. We would be delighted to reinstate it if it makes sense. As we do have quite a few very young attendees, offering a creche in the Hall was considered as an alternative. This idea will be easier to organise once the church extension is built, as part of the Community Hub project.

Business as Usual, punctuated with Special Events

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who run regular activities with children and young people. Especially to Christine's team running Little Saints, the volunteers helping Drew with the Junior Choir, the people who were running Smarties until the summer and all of the people involved in All Age worship.

Events with outreach to children & young people in the community this year included the **Good Friday** ecumenical event outside the Boiler House and the annual **Easter Egg** hunt on the Green.

Lana agreed with the PCC that we should have a **table tennis table** available for anyone in the congregation over the age of 8 to use. The de la Hunts kindly donated their table for church use and it is now in the Middleton Room.

The Advent and Christmas season was particularly busy, with the **Christmas Market**, including many well received activities for children in the Mitchell room; the **Living Nativity**, featuring Honey the Donkey, with stops in the local area including both St. Hilda's and Cestria House, followed by refreshments for about 70 people in the Hall; and the **Nativity Service**. The **Christingle Service** was moved to Candlemas in February 2025.

Housekeeping & Maintenance

This year, we decided to tidy up the glory hole in the Middleton room which houses all of the crafting materials used by various groups. We reviewed the Children's Corner, asking for input from those who use it and updating the layout.

We would like your practical help – it doesn't need to be a huge time commitment!

We can use your help and skills in all sorts of ways: Getting materials together for a craft activity; Running an activity during a church event; Making Christingles; Encouraging children and young people to join our Junior Choir or Bell Ringers; Joining the Smarties rota. Do contact us!

Kay Plumley, on behalf of the CYP

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Anna Chaplain Report

The need continues in the Care Homes in Jesmond. The need to be remembered, to be listened to, to be accorded worth and dignity. The work of the Anna Chaplain is to meet and respond to such need, and that is what I have tried to do during the past year.

There are a range of emotions attached to the work of an Anna Chaplain. Certainly sadness as I observe the progress of Alzheimer's Disease taking its toll on residents, but also a sense of satisfaction (if that is the right word) at the difference it can make when someone is noticed, acknowledged with a smile and given time to be heard.

So, I continue to go in weekly to Craghall and Cestria House, and am also visiting (with others) members of our congregation who are resident now in Melton House and Fleming Court, as well as taking Home Communion where it is needed.

I continue what I call the 'outreach' of my ministry as I am invited to join Anna Chaplain Training courses to share my experiences with those in the first stages of taking up the ministry.

Crucial to what I do is to ensure that major festivals are remembered: Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, All Souls Day. This is important for those who have been regular church members and who now find themselves in residential care.

So, there you have it. That is what I have done... and will continue to do as long as I am able.

Joan Grenfell, Anna Chaplain

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Community Hub Steering Group Report

2024 saw the continuing progress of the St George's Hub Community Scheme. At the start of the year the fundraising total was £156,100 and our fundraiser was able to return to some initial trusts which entailed 25 fresh applications for grants, all of these being targeted at the additional Church building.

During the first quarter of the year full tender documentation was prepared by Messrs Simpson & Brown Architects and the associated consultant team on the Church facilities. Tenders were sought from six contractors and tender submissions received on 22nd March. Following full review of costings by the Consultant Quantity Surveyors and members of the project element of the Hub group, a Value Engineering exercise was undertaken to reach a final target total cost. This represented an optimum balance between retaining the original design concepts and the constraints of realistic funding expectation.

At its July meeting, the PCC approved the revised costings for the Church extension and instructed the Fundraiser to proceed to raise funds on this basis. The current revised total therefore for the whole site project then stood at £1.478m. This is likely to see some further increase when comparable updated costings are obtained for the provisional hall plans in spring 2025. This uplift was essentially unsurprising, given the national recognition of substantial increases in raw materials, transport and labour costs.

April was an undoubted fundraising highlight: our largest single donation that of £50,000 from the Dame Margaret Barbour Foundation. The Hub steering group was very grateful to PCC member Brent Swinburne, St George's chief liaison with Dame Margaret. We have also benefited from a number of other generous Legacies. Numerous further grants have been applied for and received through the constant endeavours of Paul Baird our professional fundraising consultant. We owe Paul a great debt of gratitude for his perseverance, dedication, practical, and professional support and enthusiasm. Indeed he personally has been a regular contributor to our funding pot. Paul has provided constant advice and suggestions for the group to action in terms of Community outreach and marketing, alongside undertaking his own many visits to the area, meeting various users and groups and providing invaluable oversight during our period of interregnum. We have also been very grateful for the ongoing support and encouragement of our patron Prof Sir Alan Craft.

The Church Hall planning permission time scales were secured by the replacement of the 3 existing rooflights in the current main hall with new electronic opening Velux windows. These have been received very favourably for the difference they already make

to the hall, and form part of the overall Hall refurbishment scheme. Further review of the original plans for the Hall were also undertaken over the year in order to provide updated internal layout plans for consultation in 2025.

St George's Hub fundraising and wider profile raising events in 2024 included

- Burns night
- Library talk on Hub nature and aims (JW)
- John North Lecture on the context of the building of St George's
- Anna Chaplaincy talk and discussion as to how to better include care home residents in the Community by Joan Grenfell
- Summer Music Night with Elvis during the Jesmond festival
- St Andrews Night Ceilidh

Since her installation on 7 October, the Hub Steering Group has been re-energised by the leadership of our new incumbent Rev Debbie. She has given her whole-hearted support to the scheme and provided new energy, fresh ideas and above all encouragement to refocus on the vision and purpose of the redeveloped St George's site, as it is this vision which will both engage the local community and appeal to fundraisers.

At her first meeting Debbie came up with the following –

Joyful

Engaging

Safe

Modern

Open

Nurturing

Destination



One site for all

Rev Debbie conceived and led an Advent appeal to raise a sum of £15,000 from Parish and Community by Candlemas. At the start of Advent, our total Hub funds amounted to almost £300,000. By year end, it was clear that the Advent Appeal launched by Rev Debbie would overshoot its target. As a result, our fundraiser is able undertake applications to grant bodies for match funding, a huge step forward in potential revenue stream into 2025. We hope and pray to have sufficient funds for 'spades in the ground' behind the church by the end of the year.

A massive thanks to all who have given so generously in both time and financial support to the Hub project.

Derek Nicholson, Janet A Wilson

Charitable Giving Group Report

The group met in early June 2024. There are many well-supported events throughout the year including:

- Children North East rolling collection
- February, Children’s Society Boxes
- May, Christian Aid Appeal and Fete
- July, Christ Church School / Children North East Uniform appeal
- September, People’s Kitchen Harvest Festival
- November, WERS Christmas Gifts
- December, Christmas Market

All supported the idea of setting out these events together with the Annual Fete and Christmas Market in a calendar format so that people could be prepared and plan their personal contributions. An article was prepared for the Lance.

The 2023 recipients from church funds were reviewed. It was agreed that we should focus more on local needs. The PCC approved the donations on the list below.

Louise Chapman, Joan Grenfell, Hazel Jones-Lee, Margaret Vane, Janet Wilson

Angel tree Christmas gifts for offenders' children	600	https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/our-work/angel-tree/
Christ Church C of E Primary School	400	http://www.christchurch.newcastle.sch.uk/
Dementia Matters - Newcastle and Northumberland	300	https://www.dementiamatters.net/
West End food bank	300	https://newcastlewestend.foodbank.org.uk/
Friends of Jesmond library	100	https://jesmondlibrary.org/
Jesmond Street Pastors	300	https://streetpastors.org/locations/jesmond/
Jesmond Community Forum	150	https://jesmondcommunityforum.org/
Newcastle Branch of Samaritans	300	https://www.samaritans.org/branches/newcastle/
People's Kitchen	300	https://peopleskitchen.co.uk/
Caring Hands - supports independent living for vulnerable elderly Newcastle residents	300	https://www.caringhandscharity.org.uk/
Support for local refugee families	300	
St Oswald's Hospice	300	https://www.stoswaldsuk.org/
Shieldfield Art Works- contemporary art, theological reflection and community activism - under the auspices of the Methodist church	100	https://www.saw-newcastle.org/
Open Doors movement to support persecuted Christians worldwide	250	https://www.opendoorsuk.org/
Total	4000	

Music Report

Parish music making has enjoyed a busy time, with the choir working hard throughout the liturgical year. The promotion of additional concerts and events has continued, and much work has been going on behind the scenes on long-term fundraising solutions for the organ.

The beginning of the year was notable for a concert of Indian Classical music, organised by Professor David Clarke from Newcastle University, and the first broadcasts of hymns recorded for BBC Songs of Praise. These recordings featured a capacity congregation, the parish choir and Kris Thomsett at the organ. In March, the choir sang a Lenten Meditation with the Choir of Hexham Abbey, a performance of Fauré's Requiem, conducted by Drew. On Easter Day we welcomed brass players to the 9.30 Mass, and their festive contribution was a highlight of a musical Holy Week and Easter. Likewise, our Pentecost evensong featured instrumentalists, supported by financial contributions from Friends of Music. The Andrelli String Quartet accompanied our own singers with members of the Royal Grammar School Community Choir in a performance of Lotti's Credo. The annual Kids' Organ Prom featured organist Jonathan Scott, who would go on to play a magnificent solo organ recital in the 2024 BBC Proms (ours came first!).

An organ recital by David Hill (formerly of St John's College, Cambridge, and now Director of the Bach Choir) dedicated to Frederick Peacock began our autumn programme of events, and was followed by a moving performance of the Duruflé Requiem with Vox Populi for All Souls Day. Quickly we found ourselves in the hectic run up to Christmas, with the choir singing a highly atmospheric Advent Procession and the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. During this period we learned that our application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to establish a heritage trail between St George's and Jesmond United Reformed Church had been successful. This project is stage one of a larger initiative to restore both our pipe organ and the Lewis-Willis instrument at JURC and interesting collaborations will now take place between the two churches. There will be many opportunities to get involved, with volunteering at the heart of the project.

My sincere gratitude to all who have encouraged our music making over the past year, with special thanks to donors to the Peacock Choral Scholarship Fund and the Organ Fund. Personal thanks must go to Nigel Russell-Sewell (an able deputy for me when I'm away), Bryony Cowell (librarian), Alison Mattinson (robes), Derek Nicholson (too many jobs to mention!), Hilary Cullingford, Maggie Paczek and Sue Melbourne (Junior Choir), and Roy Large (Hon. Assistant Organist), and to Jonathan Richards for his invaluable administrative support.

Drew Cantrill-Fenwick, Director of Music

SENDING

The Churchwardens' Report

The year began with a succession of festivities! An Epiphany party during Parish coffee on 14 January followed by a Burns Night sell-out Community Hub fundraiser, Darling Dollies performance in aid of the Friends of St George's - all culminating in the very successful annual pantomime – The Prince, the Pauper, the Princess and the Peas. In February the ECO group gave a thought-provoking presentation on getting rid of fossil fuels, looking towards Net Zero. The Ministry Team preached from a book on the Psalms by John Bell in Lent and weekly groups each also reflected on a different Psalm. Father Ollie organised weekly Stations of the Cross services at St Hilda's as part of his ongoing ministry there. In March, The Shiny Row Male Voice Choir gave a popular performance in aid of the Friends of St George's.

Very sadly March 2024 was principally marked by the loss of our dear Emeritus Organist, Frederick Peacock, who had served St George's for so many decades. Frederick would have truly appreciated the Capella Messiah, the "Come and Sing" Lenten meditation, and the outstanding singing of St George's Choir leading Choral Eucharist at Durham Cathedral in April. Loved and respected in equal measure, Frederick is missed by all who knew him.

Services on Easter day were attended by 185 worshippers. Then, at Parish coffee, we said farewell to Canon Clare and presented gifts in appreciation of all the work she had done in the Benefice during the six months of her secondment, and to wish her well in her new position as Provost of Sunderland Minster. Some parishioners were able to attend her joyous licensing on 14 April. Only a week later we were saying farewell again - this time to our wonderful Father Ollie who had provided such continuity, patience and wisdom before and during the interregnum. His licensing followed in mid-May at Haydon Bridge – a service of great celebration and rejoicing, conducted by Bishop Mark.

Following the departure of Canon Clare we were very grateful for services of several priests and curates to lead our worship on Thursdays, on Sundays, and who conducted occasional offices. Members of our own Ministry team – Bryan Vernon, and Readers Joan Grenfell, Malcolm Toft and Izzy McDonald-Booth were supported by some familiar faces notably Chris Wardale, Sue Wilson, Rachel Wood, some less familiar faces – Malcolm Railton, Peter Sinclair and Ruth Birnie, and curates - Ruth Stradling, Miriam Jones and Alison McCarthy. Bishop Mark chaired the shortlisting panel, which met to consider five applications following the re advertisement of the Vacancy. Interviews were arranged for three of the applicants on 4 June. Bishop Mark led our April service of Confirmation and Baptism during Choral Evensong.

Work to establish closer community relations is the foundation of the Community Hub project and has led us to participate more fully in the Jesmond Community Forum and Festival. We were delighted that Chris Clarke, the community Forum Treasurer, a

member of the Hub steering group, saw the 2024 St George's Spring Fete as an appropriate opening event for the Jesmond Festival. Bishop Helen-Ann very kindly accepted Father Ollie's invitation formally to open proceedings, which were able - despite rather damp weather - to take place with many, varied musical contributions. A total of £4,500 was raised to support the work of St George's. The first bank holiday in May was however on reflection not perhaps the ideal timing for the event going forward, being too early for the plant stall and due to the absence of some regular stall leaders. All agreed next year it should be later in May or in June, ideally avoiding bank holidays. Tom Furness was commended for all his work. St Georges featured in many other events as part of the Jesmond Festival. Summer weekly organ recitals started and there was an extremely popular 'Kids' Prom' – Carnival of the Animals - complete with animated film which brightened up an otherwise wet afternoon in Whit half term. Equally popular were the Friends of St George's "Singers' concert" and the "Summer Night with Elvis", featuring Gary Jay, a well-known tribute artist. Such events raised funds for the Organ Restoration Project, Friends of St George's and the Community Hub.

The carefully planned interviews for the Vacancy on 4 June allowed the three shortlisted applicants an opportunity to meet multiple members of the congregation from both parishes to discuss the range of issues currently facing the Benefice. The appointment of Rev Debbie Loughran, Rural Dean of Telford, to the Benefice of St George and St Hilda was greatly welcomed. When the announcement was made public on 30 June, everyone was delighted that we were to be led by such an experienced and popular priest.

June was also marked by the most moving and special Service of Thanksgiving for Frederick Peacock. The church was full of so many people who held Frederick dear in their hearts over a lifetime of his devotion and commitment to St George's, and there also to support Barbara and the family. A turnout of musicians, worshippers and former choristers and pupils from far and wide filled the church, with the service led by Bishop Nick and with a most moving Eulogy from Derek Nicholson. The attendance was further extended by the ability to live stream for many who were unable to attend, with messages of love and appreciation coming immediately after the service via social media from all over the UK, and even as far as Canada. The music chosen by Drew, complemented by Frederick's own favourite hymns, was so suitable for the occasion, and beautifully sung by the choir; a truly appropriate way to demonstrate Fredrick's lasting legacy. We all miss him greatly.

During National Heritage Open week, Barbara Peacock offered the unique insight of her historic and heritage tour. Visitors also enjoyed the organ playing of Rev. Dr Roy Large. The Harvest Festival on 6 October was inevitably low key, being on the eve of the Licensing service the following evening. Nonetheless the congregation as ever contributed a very generous haul of donations for the People's Kitchen. In late November, there was a similar generous response to the request for Christmas Gifts for those supported by the West End Refugee Service.

The 7 October 2024 Licensing was a day of great celebration across the Benefice, in a beautiful service led by Bishop Helen-Ann, Archdeacon Ven. Rachel Wood and Area Dean Revd. Paul Baker – well over 100 were present and enjoyed a feast for the senses - magnificent music from Director of Music Drew and the choir, Vera’s stunning flowers and many community warm wishes, followed by a delicious buffet courtesy of the indefatigable catering team under the watchful eye of Linsley de la Hunt. Rev Debbie, interviewed for The Journal expressed her intention to “hit the ground running”. And indeed – she did!

Within a few months, Rev Debbie’s presence was beginning to make a palpable difference to the life and work of the parish. At the end of November, the St Andrew’s Night Ceilidh raised £600 for the Community Hub and attracted many from out with the church congregation including several student groups. The Christmas Market raised £4,500, despite the most atrocious weather of horizontal cold rain. The weather was kinder for the Open House at the Vicarage on 15 Dec - a brilliant afternoon of conversation and warm hospitality appreciated by everyone.

We had many very popular worship events spearheaded by Rev Debbie through Advent, boosting the reach and funds of the Community Hub Advent Appeal. Over 1,500 people attended Advent services for schools and civic organisations, including the ever- popular service of lighting St George’s Christmas tree, sponsored by the annual generosity of the Watson Family Trust. The Living Nativity promenade led by Honey the donkey attracted a good number of followers, and was particularly appreciated by the residents of Cestria house when the procession including Honey entered the lounge to spread glad tidings. Rev Debbie held a scratch Nativity in the afternoon of Christmas Eve which was attended by 120 including many non-regular churchgoers – an event of great good humour and children’s participation - the embodiment of the spirit of Christmas. In all 1,194 people attended services on Christmas and Christmas Day.

The Benefice gives thanks for the blessing of Rev Debbie Loughran. For her joy, and good humour; her insight and industry. She has renewed a sense of confidence and optimism as we look forward to 2025 and all that it will bring to the life of St George’s and St Hilda’s.

Janet Wilson, Churchwarden

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as warden during the interregnum, when we have benefited greatly from the ministry of Father Ollie, Canon Clare, and many visiting clergy. The successful appointment of Reverend Debbie as our incumbent for St Hilda and St George was the highlight of 2024. Being warden gives one the opportunity to "meet and greet", to get to know new members of the congregation and to smile and laugh with the children at the back. I would recommend it! Furthermore, it also helps one to realise just how many people contribute to the life of the church, in many diverse ways. Finally, it has given me the opportunity to work alongside Janet, who has always been a great friend, and now is even more so.

Enid Pearson, Churchwarden

Buildings and Grounds Report

Thankfully, no major issues beset the church, hall or grounds through the course of 2024.

The primary concern over the last 12 months has been various problems with the main church boiler system. Ultimately the system has finally been put back to full working order with additional remote timing controls located in the tower vestry. Two of the hall convector heaters were replaced with much quieter and more efficient models and two defective convectors in the church were repaired. The ECO group continue to explore the most environmentally friendly way of keeping people warm in the great space of St George's.

Other minor repairs and making good have taken place as necessary. The delicate repair of damaged floor mosaics (tesserae) by specialist conservation firm Messrs Skillington Ltd. was funded by the generosity of the Friends of St George's. Improved security has been installed for main hall (keypad) and lone workers in the office (buzzer intercom entry). In advance of Rev. Debbie's arrival, the clergy vestry and part of the tower vestry were redecorated, and the rear vicarage garden partially cleared. The church hall had modest improvements made at the beginning of the year with the introduction of 3 new electrically operated rooflights.

The five-year Quinquennial inspection (QI) was due this year and has been duly undertaken in November complete with drone survey. Some initial observations concerning the church tower slate louvres were logged and were scheduled to be rectified early in 2025.

Following competitive tender for new QI services, the inspection and report were undertaken by Mr Tristan Spicer of Doonan Architects, Hexham. Tristan replaces Ian Ness to whom we are extremely grateful for his custodianship over several years.

Indeed, it was Ian's design that was used to create the new major piece of furniture in the church, the new wooden lectern steps that now afford much better access assistance with a double handrail in place. We are grateful for the very generous legacy bequeathed by Miss Ann Biles which made this beautiful new addition to our interior possible.

The Parish benefits enormously from the "Tuesday Group" who do a sterling job every week in undertaking a myriad of gardening, housekeeping and general maintenance jobs and we are extremely grateful to them all. Special thanks to Ian Spencer who never has a "dull" moment with all the electrics and lighting on the site.

Similarly, all those who wield a duster or mop each month in cleaning of the church to keep it looking so good deserve mention herein – thanks to one and all.

Derek Nicholson and Janet Wilson

Deanery Synod Report

This has been a transition year for the Central Newcastle Deanery Synod, as the Revd. Pauline Pearson retired as acting Area Dean in the spring and Revd. Paul Baker took over in summer.

St. George's Synod representatives this year were:

Elected reps: Mike Delahunt, Kay Plumley

Ex officio: Clare MacLaren (until Easter), Izzy McDonald Booth (as Lay Chair of the Diocesan and now General Synods), Debbie Loughran (since October)

The focus of the work this year has been in 3 areas:

Worship

Every Deanery Synod meeting starts with a short act of worship. As a particular focus since October 2024, our Bishop, Helen-Ann, has invited us all to a "Year of Seeking". This is part of a 3 year 'Seeking, Sharing, Sending' process. This focus would prioritise prayer and discernment - as individuals, small groups, parishes, chaplaincies and deaneries - and seek to pay attention to where God is at work in our communities and contexts.

Deanery Development Plan

The Deanery Development Plan aims to share people, time and resources across the churches and parishes in the Deanery, including clergy, lay leaders and retired clergy. It has 5 focus areas:

1. Leadership & Governance
2. Mission & Pastoral Care
3. Buildings fit for purpose
4. Development of Lay Ministry
5. Generous Giving

The Environment ran as a common thread through all of these and it was noted that our Deanery has the highest % of churches signed up for Eco church in the Newcastle Diocese (St. George's has a silver award).

Within the 5 areas is a long list of all of the things which we might do. Parishes were asked to choose priorities for themselves, which we reported on last year. There has been good collaboration mainly in the area of children & young people, with a Good Friday youth event and a Lifepath event in summer run by Holy Trinity (with many other churches), which attracted 160 Year 4 children.

Deanery Finances

Every meeting included an update on Deanery finances (Parish Share). Much of Parish Share is spent on clergy stipends and clergy housing, as well as training across the whole of our Diocese. In 2024, Parish Share offerings from the 20 churches in the Deanery were enough to support 22 clergy positions, insufficient to fully support ministry in areas which cannot afford to pay for their clergy. We learned that the Diocese, which funds shortfalls,

has been running a deficit since Covid, now totalling £1.5 million. As this is not sustainable, all parishes were urged to help and support ministry and mission in our Diocese, including sharing the funding of the work. Specifically, we have all been asked to increase our offering to Parish Share by 8%. In parallel, the number of clerical positions in the organisation design across the Diocese will be reduced. Please note that Parish Share does not pay for the Bishop, although it does pay for central support staff in areas like Safeguarding and Children & Youth work.

We continue to work together and support one another in the Central Deanery in a positive and constructive way.

Mike de la Hunt, Debbie Loughran, Izzy McDonald-Booth, Kay Plumley

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Safeguarding Report

The new databases from the Diocese have made it easier to maintain easy records of DBS and training: prior to this there was no centralised system.

This year has been relatively quiet with mercifully no safeguarding incidents of any significance I am pleased to say.

It will not have passed anyone that the church of England sadly finds itself in a safeguarding quagmire, with several major historical safeguarding incidents. The Jay report was clear in its recommendations which have failed to be endorsed by Synod. Bishop Helen-Ann has been clear and outspoken in her support of the abused. After a period of uncertainty, when our previous safeguarding team resigned a new Diocesan Safeguarding advisor has just been appointed; I am sure she will give direction and clarity to safeguarding in the parishes.

As a parish we continue to endeavour to put into action important checks and training - the parish has been very supportive in taking part in checks and training. In my time on the Diocesan Safeguarding board we have finalised guidelines for Children and the Media. I hope St Georges will ratify them. It is noteworthy that the need for them has become even more urgent as the danger/misuse of the media has grown.

After over ten years being PSO at St George's, through two major safeguarding incidents, I will be retiring at the Church Meeting in May.

Dr Sue Vernon, Parish Safeguarding Officer

THE PARISH OF ST GEORGE'S JESMOND
SAFEGUARDING POLICY PROMOTING A SAFER CHURCH

The following policy was agreed at the Parochial Church Council (PCC) meeting held on 9th April 2024

In accordance with the Church of England Safeguarding Policy our church is committed to:

- Promoting a safer environment and culture.
- Safely recruiting and supporting all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the church.
- Responding promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
- Caring pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
- Caring pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns or allegations of abuse and other affected persons.
- Responding to those that may pose a present risk to others.

The Parish will:

- Create a safe and caring place for all.
- Have a named Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) to work with the incumbent and the PCC to implement policy and procedures.
- Safely recruit, train and support all those with any responsibility for children, young people and adults to have the confidence and skills to recognise and respond to abuse.
- Ensure that there is appropriate insurance cover for all activities involving children and adults undertaken in the name of the parish.
- Display in church premises and on the Parish website the details of who to contact if there are safeguarding concerns or support needs.
- Listen to and take seriously all those who disclose abuse.
- Take steps to protect children and adults when a safeguarding concern of any kind arises, following House of Bishops guidance, including notifying the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) and statutory agencies immediately.
- Offer support to victims/survivors of abuse regardless of the type of abuse, when or where it occurred.
- Care for and monitor any member of the church community who may pose a risk to children and adults whilst maintaining appropriate confidentiality and the safety of all parties.
- Ensure that health and safety policy, procedures and risk assessments are in place and that these are reviewed annually.
- Review the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practices at least annually
- This policy is reviewed each year by the Parochial Church Council and re-affirmed at the Annual Meeting

Each person who works within this church community will agree to abide by this policy and the guidelines established by this church.

This church appoints Dr Sue Vernon (suejvernon@icloud.com) as the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Incumbent vacancy

Churchwardens Janet Wilson Erin Pearson

Date 9/4/24

This policy is to be reviewed annually and re-affirmed at the APCM

Friends of St George's Report

Another busy year in which we have tried to put on a good variety of events appealing to people across the board.

2024 started with the ever popular Darling Dollies in February, as always very well attended and with a fine selection of the best songs from the 40's, 50's and 60's. A sumptuous tea was served in the interval and huge thanks are due to those volunteers and bakers who put this together.

In March the Sunderland Male Voice Choir entertained us in church – an excellent evening.

The Friends year starts on St George's Day (appropriately enough) and we held our AGM on that day with (for the first time) a raffle draw – everybody knows how much I love raffles! In May The Singers' offered a Spring Concert for us during the Jesmond Festival, most generously giving us all the proceeds. They are repeating their great kindness at the start of this year's Jesmond festival for which we are very grateful. At the start of June

we held our Annual Dinner, always starting with lashings of fizz on the Green - sometimes in warm summer sunshine, sometimes not - followed by an excellent meal with a mixture of congregation and community, chatting away in a relaxed and fun-filled evening. Newcastle Concert Band gave a concert later in June, now a regular event and we very much look forward to hosting them.

An innovation on the four Sundays in July from 2-4pm was to provide TEA ON THE GREEN (and Pimms on the final Sunday). It was well advertised and very popular, with people just dropping in - so popular that we are repeating it again this year, but avoiding a clash with the Wimbledon Final and also extending it to five weeks.

Friday and Saturday the 6th and 7th September were Heritage Open Days, with a tour of the church on offer and an exhibition detailing the history of St George's from its consecration in October 1888.

In October the Felling Male Voice Choir gave a concert, a second appearance for them. We had a stall at St George's Christmas Market, a good opportunity to sell some of our merchandise and we rounded 2024 off with the very welcome return of The Singers' and their superb annual Christmas Concert.

Barbara Peacock, Hon. Chair of FOSG

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Refugee Support Report

This has been a busy and challenging year. More recently a Ukraine family have taken possession of a property in Gosforth. They are working hard making it a home for their family and extremely hard in a challenging garden! I suspect we may see their produce as nurture and nature takes its course. Coming to terms with such changes in their lives cannot be underestimated. We wish them well.

Families from Persia, Syria, and Afghanistan, whom we have supported through to 'move on' mode, have and are setting up homes in Gateshead and Newcastle. A hard task with very little to their name but their dignity, thankfully, and without family support. We also anxiously await news of one family's asylum application which is long overdue.

All of these families are very supportive of one another and are very happy to assist us on occasions.

In the last weeks we have been approached by two people living in a place of safety in Jesmond.

The agencies we have been fortunate enough to be involved with over these past three years are now assisting, and hopefully they will find their situation regularised and then dispersed into secure sustainable accommodation as soon as possible.

In the meantime we shall continue to support them throughout this difficult time in what continues to be a very distressing period in their lives.

Currently we have 42 folk actively on our radar including children from ages 2 to 18. They are coping! War and persecution behind them but still impacting their lives.

There have been a great many more who have been dispersed moved on and some likely facing deportation. However whilst seeking support from St George's we have done what we can to alleviate as much of their very obvious needs and their sadness during life changing times.

Pauline Magnay

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Treasurer's Report

The Financial Statements for 2024 form part of this overall report and there is a detailed financial review included with those accounts, so in this Treasurer's report I will focus my attention on the headlines and main issues.

Total unrestricted income for the year was £199,735, including a proportion of a generous legacy. This is a reduction from 2023, of which the most significant part is attributable to a decrease in Planned Giving, which is so important to the continuing prosperity of the Church. It must be recognised that so many of our parishioners also generously contribute additional sizeable sums, large proportions of which have been made to the Hub and Organ Restoration Projects, which are restricted funds.

Other income has been virtually static. Income from trading activities has shown a small increase of 3.1%; Church Hall letting and Church hire have increased by £1,886 but income from our houses in St. George's Close has not increased, whilst their maintenance and insurance costs have risen. Unrestricted income from fund-raising

events, primarily the Summer Fête and Christmas Fayre, was almost identical to the previous year.

Much of the financial activity in the year has focused on restricted funds, primarily for the Hub and Organ Restoration projects. Altogether, £252,513 has been received although that, of course, can only be spent on the projects for which it was raised; the PCC is required by law to ensure that all restricted funds remain ring-fenced for their specific purposes.

Total unrestricted expenditure for the year was £212,172, representing an increase over 2023 of only 0.2%. That was achieved in the face of rising inflation and, whilst the PCC takes care to control costs, there is still some room for further savings. Fortunately, this included a reduction on utility bills for the Church and Church Hall, compared to the large increases in the previous year but this was offset by the need to spend significant amounts repairing and improving the Church boiler and bird-proofing parts of the Church Tower. Parish Share payments to the Diocese remained at £90,000 amounting to 45% of all unrestricted income.

As a result of these many factors there was a net deficit in 2024 of £12,959 on unrestricted funds, much of this is due to the cost of vital repairs to the Church. Leaving aside the need to spend significant amounts on such repairs and maintenance, there has been some return to stability. Problems persist, particularly in the face of declining income from planned giving and the likelihood that expenditure will be required in 2025 to address issues raised by the quinquennial inspection, so careful financial control and management of costs will need to continue, if free reserves are to be restored to an acceptable level.

Of particular benefit during the year were the generous donations of £22,342 from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust to provide support to the PCC in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings.

Restricted funds have been referred to above and the amount of work on these projects has been considerable. The net total of £110,529 standing to the Credit on The Hub fund does not include pledges made but not yet received and in 2025 some expenditure will be required to keep the project going. After several successful fundraising activities, the Organ Restoration Fund stood at £25,883 at 31st December 2024.

The 1888 Project is a partnership established with Jesmond United Reformed Church and, towards the end of 2024, a grant for the heritage trail element of the project was agreed by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the first phase of the which of £81,800 is being held in a restricted fund, to be kept on behalf of the partnership.

Despite the achievements in the year, there is some way to go to restore financial strength and, since the year-end, it will be necessary to continue striving for improvement in Church income and control of costs. The PCC intends to honour its commitment to increase Parish Share payments to £97,200 in 2025 and will necessarily

keep the position under review to identify an appropriate fair share for the future, in an endeavour to make payments that are both fair and affordable.

As I am standing down as Treasurer after nearly four years in the role, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me and contributed to the financial management of the Parish, particularly the Churchwardens and Jonathan, without whose efforts my task would have been much more difficult. Brian originally asked me to serve for two years and I was happy to extend that, especially during the interregnum, and it is so pleasing to see how Debbie has brought a transformative approach to so many aspects of the Parish's activities. During those four years fortunes have been mixed but the overriding successes must be the development of the plans for the Hub and the Organ Restoration projects. When it comes to everyday activities that keep the Church running, the PCC is not out of the financial woods and the priorities must continue to be to increase income and keep costs firmly under control. I believe that the financial position now is stronger than when I took over and I wish Debbie, the new Treasurer and the PCC as a whole well for the future prosperity, in every sense, of St. George's Church.

Mike Ranson, Treasurer

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church
Meeting held on Sunday 28th April 2024**



The Parish Church of St George, Jesmond

Annual Meetings 2024

- Chair: Professor Janet Wilson, Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council
[The Benefice of St George and St Hilda, Jesmond, is in interregnum]
- Present: 36 members of the Parish community
- Apologies: Jean Davies, Jon Davies, Joan Grenfell, Linsley de la Hunt, Roy Large, Alison Mattinson, Julian Plumley, Kay Plumley, Mike Ranson, Peter Rodgers, Ian Spencer, Malcolm Toft, Sue Vernon.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners
held on Sunday 28 April 2024**

at 11 am in the Church Hall

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Dr Nigel Russell-Sewell, Honorary Secretary to the Parochial Church Council, was appointed Clerk to the Annual Meetings.
3. Two nominations were received for the role of Churchwarden: Enid Pearson and Janet Wilson (proposed: Joan Rooney, seconded: Hazel Jones-Lee). They were appointed unopposed.
4. The meeting closed at 11.04 am.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
held on Sunday 28 April 2024**

at 11.05 am in the Church Hall

1. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.
2. The Minutes of the meetings held on 30 April 2023 were approved.

3. The Electoral Roll: 206 names recorded, an increase of five from last year. Noted: the Roll renews in 2025 and everyone will need to register afresh.
4. The list of Sidespeople circulated was noted, with the addition of Sue Melbourne.
5. Election to Deanery Synod: there is a vacancy following the resignation of Alex Walker. No nominations were received. The vacancy may be filled at a later date.
6. Election to the Parochial Church Council: there are two vacancies on the PCC. Two valid nominations were received:

Brent Swinburn (proposed: Jack Burn; seconded: Graham Rutt)

Alison Mattinson (proposed: Hazel Jones-Lee; seconded: Barbara Peacock)

Both were duly appointed to serve on the PCC for a period of three years.

7. The following reports were received: the proceedings of the PCC; Churchwardens; Fixtures and fittings; and Proceedings of Deanery Synod. An amendment was made to the Churchwardens' report: the reference to Children Northeast receiving 400 items of school uniform in the September entry should be amended to say that "the 400 items of school uniform were donated equally between Children Northeast and Christchurch School Shieldfield".
8. An overview of the Honorary Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2023 was presented by Rachel Oswald, representing the Independent Examiner. The very positive impact of the generous recurring support from the Catherine Cookson Foundation for our day-to-day expenditure was highlighted. Thanks were offered to the Honorary Treasurer for all his work.
 - Q. Why did we pay £450 in bank charges?
 - A. We have a business account for which monthly charges and transaction charges apply.
 - Q. Is all the money that has come in for The Hub shown in the accounts?
 - A. Yes. Donations and grants received since end-December 2023 do not appear in these accounts.
 - Q. Who is looking after our investments?
 - A. CBF Investment Fund and Epworth Investment Fund.
 - Q. What do we see as the impact on Diocesan activity of our reduced Parish Share.
 - A. The Charity Commission requires organisations to have a reasonable period of running costs in an accessible fund. For us this means £45,000. We are now at £30,000 thanks to the industry of the Honorary Treasurer turning around several years of successive losses. Furthermore, the Honorary Treasurer identified historic inconsistencies in the derivation of what had been our Parish Share until a few years ago and he will be happy to discuss his research one to one on his return.
9. John Oswald of Stephenson Coates was appointed Independent Examiner (proposed: Izzy McDonald Booth; seconded: Geoff White; approved unanimously).

10. The Safeguarding report was received. The Safeguarding Policy was reaffirmed unanimously.
11. The Inclusive Church Statement was reaffirmed unanimously.
12. Reports from St George's community committees and groups were received. Noted: the Children and Young People's group would welcome further support.
 - Q. The accounts show just over £12k in a restricted fund for the Family and Youth Worker. Can we not use this to support the group?
 - A. The group is not in a position to appoint a worker. Activity is low at the moment. The group is thinking through options for long-term support.
13. The Environmental Policy was reaffirmed.
14. The Hub Steering Group will have a public meeting in the coming months.
15. The Chair made some remarks (see below).
16. The meeting closed with The Grace at 12.07 pm.

Chair's Remarks

Vacancy

Enid and I are on the Appointments Committee together with the wardens from St Hilda's, Bishop Mark (the Bishop of Berwick) and the Venerable Rachel Wood (Archdeacon of Northumberland). We are now in a position to interview in early June. We cannot really say much more about it than that so please do not embarrass us and yourselves by asking! Although we have clearly identified potentially applicants following our re-advertisement, the fact that we are interviewing does not necessarily mean we shall make an appointment after this first round of interviews. We agree with Bishop Mark that it is much better to spend a little longer on the search than to rush into a suboptimal appointment.

At its last meeting the PCC considered a newspaper article in The Times, Friday 9 February, the headline is "Vicars being hounded out by bullying parishioners". Strapline 'aggressive behaviour and harassment campaigns prompt calls for Church of England to bring in code of conduct to protect priests and lay members'. Copies of this article are available on request from myself or the PCC Secretary. In the article, the Venerable Mark Ireland (Archdeacon of Blackburn) said he had been inundated with distressing correspondence from clergy and clergy spouses who have been subjected to bullying and harassment. At the same time there are many disturbing examples of lay officers bullying other members of the congregation. A second motion been presented to Synod calls for a new code of conduct for PCC members.

What is perhaps depressing is that looking back you can see that in 2008 very similar parishioner bullying was reported by the BBC. The PCC had a very open discussion about this problem and some very interesting points were forthcoming. We agreed the best thing perhaps would be to open up this discussion with yourselves as representing the parish at large and I welcome your comments.

Noted from the floor: if someone has a complaint about the Vicar they should go to the Churchwardens in the first instance. The Churchwardens have a duty of care towards the Vicar. This will be highlighted in The Lance.

Thanks

At about this point in every APCM the Chair offers thanks. I am a new warden and Enid is an experienced warden and I think it's wonderful that we have very complementary areas of specific interest and think we would both agree that we have had a tremendous amount of support from all sorts of people who are working very hard. In fact, it seems that it would be easier to mention people who aren't doing anything than to thank all of you who are.

If you feel that you are not working very hard you are in the minority and please step forward and jobs will be found! For the willing majority I think all that Enid and I could say is 'thank you' and draw on the comfort that the Lord loveth a cheerful giver.

I feel I am duty bound, however, to mention the band of church cleaners. We are an enthusiastic band of assorted sexes. If we have a reasonable turnout it is a relatively quick job – each person has a task: somebody polishes the pews; others deal with windowsills; the choir stalls or steps. As we have a borderline quorum, if one or two people don't turn up then the job for those who are left becomes quite big. People have commented, "don't you have cleaners to do that?". Obviously we pay for Hall cleaning and I'm sure you all agree that Gosia does a first-class job considering the level of foot-fall. Due to the size of the church were we to hire in a team of professional cleaners once a month even if we could find a team guaranteed to handle the fragile elements of our heritage respectfully, the bill would be hundreds if not thousands per annum. Please do consider joining the team at 9.30 am on the third Saturday of the month getting the church ready for the next day when we have Choral Evensong. It is a privilege to get very up close and personal to the fabric of our marvellous building.

The other thing I must mention is the annual fête. Tom Furness and Tom Klenka, leading on organisation and health and safety among many other commitments in their lives, are doing a fantastic job. Thank you for everyone who has helped or will help.

Planned giving

It has been the policy of the PCC not to embark on a formal stewardship campaign when we do not have a vicar. Nonetheless Planned Giving has been falling in real terms year on year. Caroline has put a lot of work preparing the Planned Giving documents. I thank her enormously, having stood down as Treasurer after a long term of office, for carrying on with GiftAid management. One of the things that makes Caroline's life a lot more simple is the use of Planned Giving because of the way GiftAid is reclaimed. This is all set out with Caroline's customary clarity. Please read carefully her short summary and consider whether if you're not using this form of donation it might work for you. Or if like myself you find that your quantum has become rather stagnant consider giving it a nudge if you are able.

Charitable giving

This appears as a £4500 expenditure in the calendar year 2023 however this is because there was late payment of the donations from 2022. £2500 is new so to speak for 2023, representing a £500 increase on 2022. The PCC were keen further to

increase charitable giving in 2024. At the December PCC a further increment to £4000 to be donated in this calendar year was approved. The PCC were also keen to see a more even distribution of giving throughout the year rather than galloping to look for good causes in the late autumn or early winter. The bottom line is that we look to increase the number of people involved in choosing charities particularly now this sum is effectively doubled from what it was in 2022. If anyone is interested please contact the PCC Secretary or myself. Our recipients in 2023 were:

- Angel tree Christmas gifts for offenders children
- Open Door International
- Children Northeast
- Dementia Matters
- Trussell Trust Food Bank
- United Society Partners in the Gospel
- Friends of Jesmond Library
- Jesmond Street Pastors
- Transforming Communities Together Tyne to Tweed
- People's Kitchen
- Jesmond Community Forum
- Support for refugee children by Pauline Magnay

Assistant Treasurer

A related matter is the ongoing search for an Assistant Treasurer. We are all very grateful for the vast amount of work that Mike Ranson has put in together with Jonathan and the auditors represented today by Rachel Oswald from Stephenson Coates. When Mike agreed to become Honorary Treasurer the original pact was that he would serve two years. He has now served three years and very magnanimously has said he will not abandon us in an interregnum. Mike however plans to demit office a year from now and I think this advance notice is very helpful. It's obviously going to be difficult for us to replace him but if someone can step forward now, and work alongside him as a *de facto* Assistant Treasurer, it would make the job much less daunting. So anyone who can manage an Excel spreadsheet and has a reasonable level of financial literacy might then please consider this post; John Oswald and Mike are not going anywhere soon so anyone who took on the job would have friends in the background. The relationship with the Treasurer and the PCC is that the Treasurer is an elected member of the PCC.

Professor Janet Wilson
Lay Chair St George's PCC
28 April 2024

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

I report to the members on my examination of the accounts of the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. George, Jesmond for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 8 to 17.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You consider that the audit requirements of section 144 of the 2011 Act do not apply and that an independent examination is required.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts are not required to be audited, I report in respect of my examination of the accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Oswald BA FCA
Stephenson Coates Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants

20 April 2025

West 2, Asama Court
Newcastle Business Park
Newcastle upon Tyne

NE4 7YD

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023*
INCOME FROM:						
Donations and legacies		109,041	245,465	-	354,506	184,686
Other trading activities		68,085	5,829	-	73,914	70,813
Investments		6,073	707	1,986	8,766	4,875
Church activities		13,843	322	-	14,165	15,470
Other income		2,693	190	-	2,883	7,299
TOTAL INCOME	1	199,735	252,513	1,986	454,234	283,143
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Raising funds		1,676	3,609	-	5,285	4,767
Church activities		212,172	53,525	1,986	267,683	242,197
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2	213,848	57,134	1,986	272,968	246,964
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS		(14,113)	195,379	-	181,266	36,179
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS						
- unrealised		1,154	-	1,637	2,791	7,133
- realised		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(12,959)	195,379	1,637	184,057	43,312
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	9	22,342	(22,342)	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023		976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979	1,104,667
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2024		985,608	273,261	73,167	1,332,036	1,147,979

*The full statement of financial affairs for 2023 is shown in note 11 to the financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Note	2024	2023
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4	861,036	862,205
Investments	4	<u>98,451</u>	<u>95,660</u>
		959,487	957,865
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	111,392	11,959
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>278,342</u>	<u>185,578</u>
		389,734	197,537
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR			
	7	17,185	7,423
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		372,549	190,114
NET ASSETS			
		<u>1,332,036</u>	<u>1,147,979</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted	8,9	985,608	976,225
Restricted	8,9	273,261	100,224
Endowment	8,9	<u>73,167</u>	<u>71,530</u>
		<u>1,332,036</u>	<u>1,147,979</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 20 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

The Rev'd Debbie Loughran, Chair

The notes on pages 10 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1 INCOME	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
Donations and legacies					
Planned Giving:					
Gift Aid donations	76,971	20	-	76,991	79,066
Tax recoverable	19,971	5,317	-	25,288	29,802
Collections (open plate) at all services	1,201	3,054	-	4,255	4,528
Sundry donations	5,923	21,622	-	27,545	43,468
Legacies	4,975	22,000	-	26,975	2,000
Grants	-	193,452	-	193,452	25,822
	<hr/>				
	109,041	245,465	-	354,506	184,686
	<hr/>				
Other trading activities					
Church hall letting	23,826	-	-	23,826	22,285
Church hire	3,181	-	-	3,181	2,836
Property rental income	24,600	-	-	24,600	24,600
Fund-raising events	16,478	5,829	-	22,307	21,092
	<hr/>				
	68,085	5,829	-	73,914	70,813
	<hr/>				
Investments					
Dividends	810	-	1,986	2,796	2,752
Interest	5,263	707	-	5,970	2,123
	<hr/>				
	6,073	707	1,986	8,766	4,875
	<hr/>				
Church activities					
Fees	13,004	322	-	13,326	13,870
Magazines	839	-	-	839	1,600
	<hr/>				
	13,843	322	-	14,165	15,470
	<hr/>				
Other income					
Insurance claims	-	-	-	-	4,578
St Hilda's contribution (ministry costs)	-	-	-	-	1,580
Sundry	2,693	190	-	2,883	1,141
	<hr/>				
	2,693	190	-	2,883	7,299
	<hr/>				
TOTAL INCOME	199,735	252,513	1,986	454,234	283,143
	<hr/> <hr/>				

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

2	EXPENDITURE	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024	Total Funds 2023
	Church activities					
	Missionary and charitable giving:					
	Church overseas:					
	Relief and development agencies	-	-	-	-	-
	Home Missions and other Church Societies	-	-	-	-	-
	Charitable donations	3,709	673	-	4,382	4,814
		3,709	673	-	4,382	4,814
	Ministry:					
	Parish Share	90,000	-	-	90,000	90,000
	Clergy expenses	736	-	-	736	2,076
	Clergy housing expenses	(52)	-	-	(52)	6,214
	Fees paid to diocese	2,615	-	-	2,615	3,198
	Church – running expenses	21,569	-	-	21,569	24,528
	Church maintenance	29,349	55	1,404	30,808	22,378
	Upkeep of services	4,364	-	-	4,364	3,573
	Parish magazine and publicity	524	1,032	-	1,556	1,323
	Church Hall running costs	12,892	-	-	12,892	12,879
	Church Hall maintenance	2,748	10,700	-	13,448	1,238
	Other property upkeep	2,669	-	582	3,251	3,830
	Whole site plan development	-	30,657	-	30,657	10,805
	Flowers	399	1,045	-	1,444	2,841
	Asset depreciation	-	1,169	-	1,169	1,169
	Others	4,885	1,146	-	6,031	6,172
	Organ and choir	14,684	6,974	-	21,658	22,429
	Children and young people	166	74	-	240	2,055
	Printing, stationery and office costs	5,975	-	-	5,975	4,741
	Office administration	12,791	-	-	12,791	12,792
	Bank charges	430	-	-	430	453
	Professional fees	-	-	-	-	1,026
	Independent examiner’s fees, including payroll	1,719	-	-	1,719	1,663
	Total Church activities	212,172	53,525	1,986	267,683	242,197
	Raising funds					
	Costs of fund raising activities	1,676	3,609	-	5,285	4,767
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	213,848	57,134	1,986	272,968	246,964

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

		2024	2023
3	STAFF COSTS	£	£
	Wages and salaries	20,262	21,433
	Pension costs	373	419
		20,635	21,852

During the year the PCC employed an administrator and a director of music.

4 **FIXED ASSETS FOR USE BY THE PCC**

	Freehold land and buildings £	Plant and office equipment £	<u>Total</u> £
Tangible fixed assets			
COST OR VALUATION			
At 1 January 2024	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	1,161,787	34,198	1,195,985
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 January 2024	300,751	33,029	333,780
Charge in year	-	1,169	1,169
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2024	300,751	34,198	334,949
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 December 2024	861,036	-	861,036
At 31 December 2023	861,036	1,169	862,205

The freehold land and buildings comprise the Church Hall, Tower House and Close House all located at St. Georges Close in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The valuation in these accounts is based on the estimates made by the PCC for insurance purposes in 2007. The latest valuations for insurance purposes amounted to £5,261,000.

Investments

	2024	2023
At market valuation:	£	£
3,164.24 Units in the CBF's Investment Fund	73,166	71,530
14,624 Units in the Epworth Investment Fund	25,285	24,130
	98,451	95,660

The historical cost of the investments at 31 December 2024 is £51,916 (2023: £51,916).

The movement in the year comprises:

	£
At 1 January 2024	95,660
Purchases	-
Revaluation of investments	2,791
At 31 December 2024	98,451

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

5 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUND

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	Undesignated	Designated			
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	-	886,320	-	73,167	959,487
Current Assets	87,768	28,705	273,261	-	389,734
Current liabilities	(17,185)	-	-	-	(17,185)
	70,583	915,025	273,261	73,167	1,332,036

6 DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gift aid recoverable	4,020	4,614
Legacy receivable	24,975	-
1888 Project grant receivable	81,800	-
Sundry debtors and accrued income	597	7,345
	111,392	11,959

7 LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Creditors for goods and services	14,493	5,524
Accruals and deferred income	2,692	1,899
	17,185	7,423

8 FUND DETAILS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Property, Church Hall, Tower House, Close House	861,036	-	-	861,036
Funds designated by the PCC - Buildings fund	53,989	-	-	53,989
General fund	70,583	-	-	70,326
Bell Ringers fund	-	1,177	-	1,177
Donations restricted by donors – access to capital and interest	-	272,084	-	272,341
Donations restricted by donors – access to interest only	-	-	73,167	73,167
	985,608	273,261	73,167	1,332,036

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS

Unrestricted funds	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
Property	861,036	-	-	-	-	861,036
Buildings fund	52,025	810	-	-	1,154	53,989
General	63,164	198,925	(213,848)	22,342	-	70,583
Total Unrestricted funds	976,225	199,735	(213,848)	22,342	1,154	985,608

The PCC has designated the Buildings fund for use on property refurbishment projects.

Restricted funds	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Transfers £	Movement in resources		Balance 31 December 2024 £
			Incoming £	Outgoing £	
Bell Ringers fund	1,075	-	322	(220)	1,177
Open Churches fund	120	-	-	-	120
Fabric fund	37,634	-	708	(1,169)	37,173
Flowers	479	-	1,259	(1,045)	693
Family & Youth leader fund	12,675	-	-	(147)	12,528
Choral Scholarships	1,686	-	5,250	(3,950)	2,986
Director of Music	-	-	1,571	(1,571)	-
Singing Group	257	-	-	(257)	-
Music	294	-	2,117	(2,370)	41
The Hub	23,556	-	130,185	(43,212)	110,529
Organ Restoration project	22,117	-	6,286	(2,520)	25,883
The Cookson Fund	-	(22,342)	22,342	-	-
The 1888 Project	-	-	81,800	-	81,800
Other grants and donations	331	-	673	673	331
Total Restricted funds	100,224	(22,342)	252,513	(57,134)	273,261

The Bell Ringers fund was created to generate funds for the maintenance of the Church bells. It is administered by the bell ringers outside of the main PCC accounts.

The Open Churches fund was donated to ensure the Church would be opened to the public for specified periods in the year.

The Fabric fund relates to amounts raised for the purpose of capital repairs and maintenance work for the Church.

The Family & Youth leader and Director of Music funds are sums raised to support the work of those roles.

The Singing Group fund was donated by Jesmond Dementia Action Alliance, to fund a further 40 sessions of the singing group they established.

The Hub relates to the project to add an extension to the Church and redevelop the Hall and all associated activities (formerly known as the Whole Site Plan).

The Organ Restoration project relates to the full restoration of the St George's organ which was built in in 1887.

The 1888 Project is a partnership established in 2024 with Jesmond United Reformed Church. It has the overarching aim to work together to restore the organs of the churches and includes the creation of a Jesmond Heritage Trail.

The Cookson Fund. The Trustees of the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust have generously offered to make donations to support the PCC of St. George's Church in maintaining and running the Church and its buildings. The PCC has established the Cookson Fund to hold this income and apply it in accordance with the purposes specified by the Trustees. During the year donations totalling £22,342 were received, all of which were used for those purposes and a transfer of £22,342 from the Cookson Fund to the general, unrestricted fund has been made at the year end.

The other funds have similarly been restricted by donors so that none may be used for the general running expenses of the Church but are to be applied for the purposes specified.

**THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE
ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, JESMOND**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

(continued)

9 MOVEMENT OF FUNDS *(continued)*

9 (c) Endowment fund	Balance 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Additions £	Revaluation £	Balance 31 December 2024 £
Garden of Remembrance and Fabric Fund	71,530	1,986	(1,986)	-	1,637	73,167

The income from the fund is to be used firstly for the Garden of Remembrance if required and thereafter for the upkeep of the fabric of the church.

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, Nigel Russell-Sewell was paid a £1,200 Choral scholarship. Other members of the PCC were reimbursed expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC amounting in total to £4,253.

11 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2023	Total Funds 2022
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	109,219	75,467	-	184,686	176,356
Other trading activities	66,065	4,748	-	70,813	53,271
Investments	2,724	166	1,955	4,875	3,677
Church activities	15,305	165	-	15,470	15,014
Other income	7,137	162	-	7,299	21,585
TOTAL INCOME	200,480	80,708	1,955	283,143	269,903
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	614	4,153	-	4,767	1,184
Church activities	211,669	28,573	1,955	242,197	238,589
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	212,283	32,726	1,955	246,964	239,773
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS	(11,803)	47,982	-	36,179	30,130
GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
- unrealised	981	-	6,152	7,133	(12,097)
- realised	-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(10,822)	47,982	6,152	43,312	18,003
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	15,322	(15,322)	-	-	-
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2023	971,725	67,564	65,378	1,104,667	1,086,634
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2023	976,225	100,224	71,530	1,147,979	1,104,667