

**Dates of next meetings: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. APCM: 21<sup>st</sup> May**

*The PCC co-operates with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of Christ Church with a particular responsibility for ensuring wise and faithful stewardship of the Church's resources, to enable vision to become reality.*

## **Christ Church Downend: Minutes of PCC Meeting – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**Present:** Paul Peterson, Maggie Nichols, Dan Watts, Richard Ward, Bryan Ashton, Adam Parfitt, Andy Pound, Sally Green, Rosie Brydon, Julian Cox, Roger Cholmondeley and Caroline Plummer

**Apologies:** Richard Bacon and Jamie Paddon

### **Welcome and Opening Prayers**

**PP** welcomed everyone to the meeting and **DW** read Ephesians 3 v 14-21. **DW** reminded us that we are all God's beloved children and part of the Lord's family. We should all continue to pray and give ourselves freely to the Lord Jesus. Christ will shape and mould us with the help of the Holy Spirit and God will be glorified as we give ourselves to him in service.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were agreed, and signed by **PP**.

### **Dan's reflections – the first 50 days and next steps**

**Dan** began by saying that both he and his wife feel really at home at CC and they both feel strongly that they are in the right place. Thank you for the Parish Profile which he felt was authentic and a true reflection of CC. **Dan** is looking forward to working with other churches in our area, local schools and hosting meals at the Vicarage for our church family. He encouraged us to listen out for the voice of God and think about what God is saying to us and what will we do about it? We need to demonstrate to the wider community that our actions are the actions of God not of the church. Something that drew **Dan** to CC was our strap line

### **Learning to Live the Life.**

**Dan** is proposing to reinstate the Common Cup on Easter Sunday, in line with recommendations from the Church of England. Discussion ensued.

**RB** suggested that a mailchimp to the CC family explaining the plan and rationale would be helpful.

**DW** agreed and will write a letter to go out in advance of Easter Sunday.

It was agreed that the Common Cup be reinstated with a further review in 6 months.

**Action:** **DW** to write a letter to the congregation about the return of the Common Cup

**PP** advised the group that future conversations would be held, probably in the autumn in response to General Synod's prayers of love and faith.

**DW** advised that the 'Noise' would take place on the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> April - 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Saturday would see litter picking in the local community, a Cream Tea and a Family Fun Day on Bank Holiday Monday. On the Sunday we will all meet at church for the first 10/15 minutes and those who are able will take part in a prayer walk around the community. This will last for about 45 minutes. Back to church for coffee and sharing of stories afterwards. **MN** will be sourcing a map to enable us to highlight the streets we cover in prayer. There will be something going on in the church for those less mobile. The 9.15 service at Quakers Road will go ahead as normal.

### **Environmental Group:**

**PP** introduced the written update from James Gardner of the Environmental Group who is hoping to come along to the May PCC meeting with further updates and recommendations. We are working towards a Silver Award.



**RW** is part of the above group who advised that no other church in the Deanery has received a Silver Award so it is hopeful that CC will be the first.

**Action:** Environmental Update to be added to May's agenda

### **Staffing Update:**

**APOU** advised that a Staffing sub committee meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023 when the Staff Handbook was looked at. Whilst there have been recent revisions, it was last fully updated in 2014 and needs a wholesale review. **APOU** will be in contact with the Diocese for support. Part of the review will include looking at a new Staff Appraisal system.

**PP** advised that Mike Bull was looking to step down as a Foundation Governor of CCJ after being in the role for four years. He will stay in place until the end of the academic year. **PP** expressed his thanks to Mike for all his hard work.

**Action:** **PP/DW** to liaise about seeking a replacement

### **Giving 4 Life**

**PP** informed the group that Gabrielle was working on the accounts for 2022 and this was progressing well. There will be a slight fee reduction from 1<sup>st</sup> March for weddings and funerals etc, following changes approved by General Synod.

**PP** brought a proposal that Beth Mullings be given access to PCC, Parish Hall and Quakers Road bank accounts and that Gabrielle, our Bookkeeper be given online access to the Hall accounts. In due course it is proposed that the Parish Hall account is closed and incorporated into the church accounts as a separate fund.

**MN PROPOSED**

**APOUND SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Action:** **PP** to notify office team

### **Wardens Report**

**BA** updated the group about the application for funding regarding repair to the damaged tower. He had applied to Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, and they will look at our application in the next funding round.

**BA** advised that after the Manchester Bombings a new Bill will come into force called 'Martin's Law'. All churches must have a plan in place which would aim to keep everyone safe during an act of terror. It was noted that NS hall has cameras but the church doesn't.

**MN** informed that the Warm Space initiative has gone extremely well and has just received a further £500 grant from South Glos Council. To date we have received donations and grants totalling £2401.63, including GA. It has had costs of £377.96, and there have been 4 monthly transfers to GF of £100 towards heating costs. The balance stands at £1623.67. Numbers are growing considerably - last week we had The Music Train playing, there were 140 people. Non Music Train weeks are quieter, but they are increasing in number too.

Churchyard Wall: The memorial wall has been hit by a large vehicle from the Britannia Court side of the wall. **MN** is getting quotes for this to be reinstated. Lancaster Brooks, who now run Britannia Court, will pay for this. It will mean that some of the memorial plaques, about 10, will have to be removed and reinstated.

Contactless giving: We haven't received any money through the contactless devices we have had for well over a year. We have always had problems connecting the devices we have. **MN** contacted the Diocese about the different options available to us and have been lent for a month, a CollecTin More device. It has been set up with our banking details and we can trial it for the next few weeks. The cost of one of these through Parish Buying would be £295 + shipping.

**MN PROPOSED** purchasing a unit subject to the one month trial period being successful

**BA SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Action:** **MN** to source unit providing trial is successful

Stone floor in Nave: The stone floor in the nave is showing signs of wear and has now been down for almost 5 years. **MN** got a company from Bristol to give us a quote to clean and



reseal the whole floor. This cost is £3,750 + VAT. The longer we leave the floor cleaning and sealing the more expensive it will become, as the damage will be greater. It should be done every five years.

**PP** suggested postponing the cleaning and waiting for the outcome of CC accounts.

**MN** replied that we would have to wait until the summer as we need 3 clear days to do the work. Unfortunately the wooden floor at church is also damaged.

**PP** suggested we revisit this at the next PCC meeting.

**Action:** Church floor cleaning to be added to May agenda

Towers: We have been unable at the present time to secure any grant funding for this work. Before the original scaffold was taken down we asked Ecclesiastical what we needed to do to protect the public and the Church building from falling stone. They suggested we wrap the relevant part of the tower with hessian, which was done before the scaffold was removed. Because of the amount of rain and winds we have had over the winter, the hessian is in a bad state and is not now where it should be to hold any loose stone. Therefore, we may not be covered by our insurance. Mn is in conversation with the Diocese regarding the best people to apply to for funding and has contacted Benefact (part of Ecclesiastical) to see if they would give us some grant funding.

**APOU** clarified that the damage to the tower is wear and tear and there was a public liability in place covering it. If someone was injured or worse, Insurance would look at who is in charge of these church buildings and what has been done to keep people safe?

**RC** asked about reinstating the scaffolding.

**MN** advised that scaffolding would cost £16,000.00.

**PP** emphasised a real urgency to complete this work. A meeting will be convened shortly to include both Church Wardens, DW, PP to look at the next steps. PP thanked the wardens for all their hard work concerning the tower.

**Action:** Meeting convened for 4th April to agree way forward

### Parish Safeguarding

**Laura Green** reported that she began the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Outside of church Laura is a children's nurse, and has been for over 20 years. She works in the Childrens Hospital and safeguarding is part of her job. Laura says "I believe that we as a church (both local and the wider church) should be the best we can be at carrying out our safeguarding responsibilities, and go further than other organisations as we are meant to be light to the world and are called to 'let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16."

**MN** suggested a Photo Board to be put on display in all our church buildings, which will include Laura's photo as Safeguarding Officer.

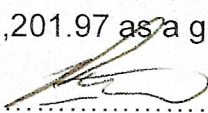
**Action:** PP/LG to liaise over Safeguarding display.

### Future meetings

**PP** advised that the next PCC meeting is to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May and the APCM will be held after the 10.30am service on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May. The staff team will be commissioned at this service/meeting. There will be a shared lunch for all to enjoy at the end of the formalities. There will be no service that day at QR.

### Correspondence

**CMP** advised that we have received a thank you from Transform Europe Network for a donation of £1,201.97 as a gift towards the work of M Hiorescu in Moldova.

Signed ..... 

Dated ..... 10/5/23