

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.

Minutes of PCC Meeting – Wednesday 25th January 2023

Present: Paul Peterson, Sally Green, Maggie Nichols, Julian Cox, Adam Parfitt, Richard Bacon, Jamie Paddon, Rosie Brydon, Brian Ashton, Helen Rees (Minutes)

Apologies: Caroline Plummer, Roger Cholmondeley, Richard Ward, Andy Pound

Welcome and Opening prayers

Paul began by saying that today, the Anglican church commemorates the conversion of St Paul and so we read from Acts Chapter 9:1-22, reflecting briefly on themes of transformation in the lives of individuals, churches and communities. This was followed by a short time of prayer.

Matters arising

Paul and Bryan had reviewed the make up of the Parish Halls Committee and agreed that it would run with one extra member until this year's APCM.

Action: Bryan to contact Elissa to ensure a meeting of the committee is arranged asap.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2022 were agreed, and signed by Paul.

New and Ongoing Business

1. Giving for Life -

Jamie began by saying that the finances were in a better position than might have been expected. The projected outturn for 2022 shows that our expected total costs for the year will exceed the income we received by £2,683. A positive outcome compared to where we were forecasting to end up a few months ago, giving us a closing balance on our General Fund of £28,687. It was queried why we were in a better position than expected and Jamie explained there had been grants for heating costs from both the Diocese and the local Council specifically to cover heating for Warm Spaces. In addition we have received an additional £5k income in one-off donations, and overall expenditure has come in nearly £2k under what was anticipated two months ago. Adam queried future costs for gas/electricity and the possibility of what they might be. Jamie said there were many variables, but this would be closely monitored. Gabrielle our bookkeeper is readying the accounts for the Auditors.

Next Steps – promoting Stewardship – Paul informed trustees that giving links on the Website had been updated so that people were directed to the Parish Giving Scheme Pages for Christ Church. He posed the question 'What else could we do to help promote Stewardship?' The meeting split into two groups to further discuss, following on from which these points were made:

- It is always useful to teach about stewardship in a way that enables and encourages people, however, it should never dictate but rather foster that state of mind.
- Communication is key. Updating people about the outcomes of their giving at the beginning of services might be a good way to show thanks and appreciation and also to show them that their gifts have helped things to happen. People are very

generous in their giving when asked for specific purposes, e.g. funding Harriet's Children's ministry. People do like to see results. Giving has reduced in 2022, but there have been new sign-ups for PGS recently.

2. Wardens Report -

Maggie informed the meeting that along with Bryan, they undertook some tidying up around the church building and disposed of some items. The new shelving unit by the Welcome Desk is now full of books. There are probably as many again in the upstairs balcony cupboard and Trinity Chapel and these need sorting and donating to a bookshop.

Action: Maggie and Bryan to complete tidying/clearance of books.

Work on the Towers will be delayed until the Spring because once the scaffolding is up, we only have six weeks for the work to be completed, otherwise the costs will rise. Grant applications have been unsuccessful so far. Gloucester Historic Churches Trust say they didn't receive our application, even though Bryan sent it twice. Bryan will pursue this to ensure that it is considered at their next meeting. Money for this work is therefore still to be found. Adam offered prayers about the Towers and funds.

Action: BA to pursue GHCT re application. MN to speak to diocesan finance team about further grant possibilities.

3. Parish Safeguarding -

Laura Powell provided a written report. DBS checks will in future be required every three years instead of five. Staff and volunteers affected will be made aware of this change. It is hoped the new shorter interval between checks can be implemented by the end of 2023. Five DBS checks were completed Dec/Jan with a further seven invited to apply. Adam raised a query regarding four outstanding names. Paul will check this out with Laura. Laura Green is attending PSO training and the PSO forum in the next 10 days, then the handover of responsibility can take place.

Action: PP to speak to LP about outstanding checks.

4. Team News -

Paul explained that Philip and Alison Rowe had joined Christ Church following Philip's retirement as Vicar at Almondsbury and they now live in Downend. Alison, a LLM, will be licensed to the Deanery for six months from 1st February, with a view to being licensed to Christ Church thereafter, giving Dan Watts our new Vicar time to consider opportunities for Alison. Alison is happy with the Working Agreement which has been drawn up. Paul asked if there were any questions about the Agreement. There being none, Paul signed it off and said that Philip and Alison would be a great asset to the parish.

Maggie spoke about the Licensing Service next Tuesday for Dan Watts. There will be representatives from clergy, officials, local school heads as well as a contingent from Harrogate plus family and friends.

Action: PP to forward working agreement to the diocese, copying in Dan Watts

5. Signs of God at Work – reflection and thanksgiving

The meeting split into two groups to talk over and reflect with thanksgiving for all God's wonderful provision during the Interregnum. An open time of prayer followed.

In amongst much to celebrate, the following areas for further consideration were identified:

- the 10.30am Sunday service has an aging profile and we must remain aware of the needs of families
- there has been internal cohesion, but we need to be outward looking to bring people with no faith to come to know Jesus
- more potential for growth with our schools
- now we have our new Vicar there could be the prospect of people stepping back.

6. Diocesan Strategy (literature circulated in advance)

Paul asked How does 'Transforming Church. Together' fit with our local priorities?

Where are the connecting points for Christ Church? The following points were raised:

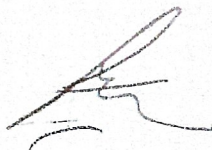
- There are lots of things we are already doing – we are blessed to be a well resourced church in terms of vision and volunteer and staff capacity.
- Some felt the documents gave headlines, but not much detail and to do it all would be very ambitious. Paul pointed out that a more complete strategy full document was on the Diocesan website which shows the leads on various parts of the strategy and encouraged people to look there for more details. (Link sent to members post meeting)
- Adam felt it was light on evangelism and Jesus isn't mentioned until the final prayer.
- Rosie queried the lack of an action plan from the Diocese. Will it be the Diocese or individual churches who take things forward? Further clarification needed re expectations.

We are expecting more information shortly as to how the diocese would like to receive feedback. No further action at present.

7. No correspondence received

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, 21st March 2023

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.



21/3/23