

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 Christ Church Downend PCC

Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room

Present: Paul Peterson, Dan Watts, Rosie Brydon, Jamie Paddon, Bryan Ashton, Richard Ward, Richard Bacon, Roger Cholmondeley, Maggie Nichols, Sally Green, Julian Cox, James Gardner and Caroline Plummer

Apologies: Andy Pound and Adam Parfitt

Welcome and Opening Prayers

PP welcomed everyone to the meeting and DW led the group in prayer and read from 1 John 3. DW encouraged members to join in with a short one line prayer to focus minds and remind us that we are all children of God and to put him at the centre of our meeting.

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

PP drew the group's attention to the attached Minutes of the Parish Halls Committee dated Tuesday 28th March 2023.

MN advised that we have now purchased a Contactless giving unit and since 1st April 2023 we have received £128 in donations via this means.

New and Ongoing Business

Staffing Matters:

PP reported that the Staffing Handbook review meeting had to be delayed due to a family illness. This will now take place in June.

DW advised that Anita Dobson has been encouraged and felt called to train as a LLM.

A proposal was tabled: "The Council supports the application of Anita Dobson for training for ministry as a Lay Minister and is willing to provide assistance with the cost of books and travelling".

ALL IN FAVOUR

At a previous meeting the PCC had discussed and approved Alison Rowe's licencing as a lay minister. As there was no incumbent in post at the time, she had been licensed to the deanery for 6 months. DW is now able to welcome her officially to the Christ Church team.

Proposal: "The Council supports the application of Alison Rowe to be licensed as LLM to this parish".

ALL IN FAVOUR

PP reported that Julia Watts has offered to stand as a Foundation Governor at CCJ on a four year term. Subject to our approval this will be taken forward with the diocese.

PP PROPOSED

MN SECONDED

ALL IN FAVOUR

Environmental update – James Gardner

JG advised that there is a small committee now consisting of Richard Ward, Helen Hughes and himself with an aim to maintain church land in such a manner that it encourages wild life and biodiversity. The committee are working through a checklist of 100 questions looking at ways to lessen our carbon footprint. At this moment in time we could achieve a Silver Award for our efforts through the Diocese. The actual award would incur costs of £125 and a plaque

which we could purchase if we are successful in our achievement of a Silver award would cost £85.00.

JG advised of exciting events in the future to encourage our congregation to think more about caring for God's wonderful world. On the first Sunday in June there will be a survey taking place in the church yard looking at the level of pollinators present. No Mow May will also be encouraged. Maybe a Home Group could take on the adoption of this new committee and offer regular prayers and maybe physical support. **JG** reminded the group that ownership is with the PCC and not just the newly formed committee.

MN has received an email from the Diocese encouraging all churches to apply for a free Energy Audit. This email will be forwarded to **JG** to action.

JP wondered if there were any grants available for this work and suggested putting up a Wildlife Identification Board showing God's creation for young and old alike to ponder.

JG replied that to his knowledge no grants were available at the present time but that an Identification Board would be a good idea.

DW reminded the group that in the future we may have to look at where we purchase our energy from, paper use, and planning events to be sympathetic to the environment.

PP asked if the PCC committee were willing to finance the Silver Award of £125 plus £85 for a plaque.

RBRY PROPOSED

RW SECONDED

ALL IN FAVOUR

RBRY conveyed her thanks to **JG** and the Eco Committee for their hard work.

Giving 4 Life

JP advised that Gabrielle, the Giving 4 Life Team and himself had now had the opportunity to check the audited CC accounts. There is currently £80,000 in free reserves. The largest designations of this total are:

£21,500 CC Asset Management Fund

£20,600 General Fund Reserves

£23,500 QR AMP

PP PROPOSED that the accounts be adopted by the PCC

RC SECONDED

ALL IN FAVOUR

JP reported a slight downward trend in giving income in the first quarter of 2023.

Warden's Report

James Drenon from Gloucester Historic Churches Trust has visited and met with **BA & MN**. He is happy to support our application for a grant towards the tower repairs. He encouraged us to join in with Ride and Stride Day planned for September to raise funds, or have an open day at church on Heritage Day and serve teas, coffees and cakes. Jim advised that the maximum of £10,000 could be given to us. As soon as a decision has been reached he will notify us.

MN reported that she had to apply for an emergency faculty as far as the towers were concerned for the work to be carried out, which has been granted, but now the paperwork has to be completed in retrospect which will incur a fee of £317 for a faculty. A commitment from PCC is needed that this work will now be carried out.

The Nave floor does need to be cleaned and sealed, otherwise it will deteriorate. We are able to claim VAT back on these items from the Listed Places of Worship fund.

The situation is ongoing with Lancaster Brooks over payment of removal and reinstatement of the memorial plaques. Lancaster Brooks have agreed to pay for the wall to be dismantled and

replaced but say the plaques are our responsibility. **Andy Pound** has taken advice from his Insurance Claims team and two emails have been sent. Ecclesiastical Insurance has been spoken to and may be willing to fund the plaque removal.

The bollard light outside the main Church doors, will be moved shortly.

The clergy and wardens had discussed the possibility of a drone inspection on the condition of the roof of the building and towers. This would cost £140 plus £100 for a report. It was decided not to go ahead with this.

PP advised that **Chris Green** was favourable towards a donation from the Church Centre AMP funds of £15,000 to support the tower work. This together with a grant and use of other reserves, meant funding the work was now feasible. **MN** advised that she is applying for further funding from the Benefact Trust.

PP asked for approval of the work on South Tower to go ahead

MN PROPOSED

BA SECONDED

ALL IN FAVOUR

MN asked for approval to deep clean and seal the church floor costing £3750.

RBRY PROPOSED

RB SECONDED

ALL IN FAVOUR

MN advised that Warm Space had a healthy bank balance and if we are able to work with people with Alzheimer's more grants would become available to us. The floor has become dirty partly due to Warm Space. A proportion of monies received could be put towards the floor cleaning bill.

Safeguarding

PP drew the group's attention to the Safeguarding Report by **Laura Green**, who has been extremely busy in her new role. Adam Bond at the Diocese has been sent the updated safeguarding policy for comment before seeking PCC approval.

RBRY commented on how much **Laura** has achieved. **DW** has a meeting with **Laura** and will express our thanks to her for all her hard work.

APCM and PCC Admin

PP reminded the group about the upcoming APCM meeting on the 21st May straight after the 10.30am service. The new ministry team will be commissioned at this service. All are invited to join in with a shared lunch afterwards.

RC shared about his role as a Deanery Synod representative. He felt it was a very important role and that we should perhaps circulate and display what is going on in the wider church.

PP commented that we could perhaps have a formal slot on the Agenda.

PP expressed his thanks to all PCC members for serving this year and encouraged them to consider standing again.

Correspondence: **CMP** reported that CC raised £146.14 for the Poppy Appeal

Signed.....

Dated 25.7.2023

Dates of next meetings : Tues 25th July, Weds 27th September. APCM: 21st May.