

## **MINUTES OF CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Garden Room**

**Present : Dan Watts, Paul Peterson, Nicola Harris (Chair with PP's support), Maggie Nichols, Andy Pound, Ali Rowe, Katie Allen, Richard Bacon, Roger Cholmondeley, Sally Green, Nigel Stowe, Philip Rowe, Jamie Paddon and Caroline Plummer.**



### **Welcome and Apologies for absence**

**Apologies : Bryan Ashton, Julian Cox and Debbie Pastwa.**

**NH welcomed Nigel Stowe to the group as a new member.**

**Opening Prayers : DW read Psalm 136 which tells the story of the people of Israel and the character of God. The Psalm encourages all of God's followers to tell their own story of his faithfulness and goodness. A time of prayer followed celebrating God's enduring love and faithfulness.**

**Minutes of meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were approved and duly signed.**

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Banner and publicity consultation**

**KA has spent some time researching the above and has contacted South Gloucestershire Council who advised that a permanent sign must be no bigger than 1.2m and a temporary sign no bigger than 0.6m square. Moving forward it was agreed that there would be a meeting between DW, KA & Beth, to discuss Katie's proposals and report back to the next PCC meeting.**

***Action: DW and KA to liaise over meeting date***

**DW thanked KA for the work she has put in regarding future banners.**

#### **Prayers of love and faith update**

**DW thanked those members who attended the extra meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January. He advised that a further meeting had been planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> March with the Staff Team to have a similar conversation. General Synod would be meeting this Friday to Tuesday as Bishop Martin Snow has re-set the way the conversation should be undertaken and offered new proposals regarding this matter. Please can we all pray for a fruitful conversation to take place.**

**NS asked where the church stands on this subject and has the PCC so far expressed the church's position?**

**DW replied that the conversation so far had focused on matters of clergy conscience, and that further discussion and communication might be necessary as synod makes further decisions.**

## **New and Ongoing Business – Update on Christ Church vision – DEEPER, WIDER, YOUNGER**

**DW** advised that a Vision group was in the process of being set up comprising of Nigel Stowe Chair, Dan Watts, Paul Peterson, Ali Rowe and Anita Dobson. **DW** is aware of the need for representation from younger members of the church family.

Discussion followed in groups of 3, before 'open feedback' from the group:

**JP** stated that there is a need to go deeper and lots to learn.

**KA** envisaged a tree which has wide branches and deep roots.

**RB** felt that there is plenty of opportunity for the older generation at CC, which could include helping children.

**MN** stated that the younger people are tomorrow's church.

**PR** expressed a need for us as a church to be outward looking.

**NS** reminded us that church is a multi-generational community. The younger generation are busy and over committed, maybe the older generation can help out the younger folk.

**RC** shared how he had encouraged one of the school children who visited CC after the Thursday morning service to have a look at the church's organ. Lots of children gathered around and enjoyed hearing about it.

**AP** commented that we need at all times to have clear communication.

**DW** advised that any changes to Quakers Road services would be tweaks, not a complete reset..

**NS** noted that some older people are open to change. He observed that at a recent 10.30 service 80% of the congregation were 80% over 60 years old.

**DW** advised that we must grow younger for the church to survive in the future.

**KA** issued a word of warning that any newcomer joining CC may feel uneasy with the term deeper and wider.

### **Staffing Update AP/PP**

**AP** had previously circulated a list of the core policies to be completed. **PP** mentioned that there had been no further progress on policies since the last meeting and that the Sub Committee consisting of **JC**, **PP** & **AP** were recognising the size of the task. If anyone is interested in helping out, please see **AP**.

**DW** suggested contacting St Michaels, Stoke Gifford, to see if they could offer assistance with regard to policies.

**Action: PP to investigate.**

We have also paid £900 for scaffold plans, and £3,600 for the first lot of scaffold which wasn't man enough for the work to continue on the tower. This brings the cost to date to £71,119.94

We don't appear to have received invoices for reinstating the bell or the Structural Engineer's report on the strength of the roof to take the scaffold.

Grants were received totalling £18,000 as follows:

Grants

Glos Hist Churches	8,500.00
J&H Rausing Trust	7,000.00
Benefact Trust	2,500.00
	£18,000.00

We also received a gift of £500 and a promise of £15,000 from Quakers Road funds. I have applied for refund of VAT of £11,848.70. Included in these prices were the costs for the scaffold of £24,666.

Having seen the roofs from the top it is obvious that some work needs to be done on the chancel roof. I have received 2 quotes, 1 for about £800 for just replacing the broken tiles and one for £12,000 to completely strip the roof both sides and felt and batten then replace tiles. The second quote is for £9,240 and £70,920.

I think we would only have to get B1 permission from the Diocese for this which I will do as it takes ages. I then suggest we investigate getting some grant funding to cover the cost.

The other urgent job needing doing is repainting the main doors. They are in quite a state and I'm waiting for a quote for this.

I accompanied David Legg from Inspired Efficiency as he carried out an energy audit on all three buildings. This has been instigated by the Diocese. They will receive the official report and then probably need to speak with us about what we can do in the future. He did make some suggestions today. As far as the Church is concerned his only suggestions would be to put the water heaters on time clocks, so the water isn't being heated at all times, this would save some money; and when one of the gas boilers break down then to replace it with a heat source pump. This would keep the building at an ambient temperature, but he thinks we would still need one gas boiler for boosting the heating needs in the winter.

As far as the halls are concerned, he would suggest putting false ceilings and changing the boilers to heat source pumps.

These recommendations will come through the Diocese in due course.

**Action: Church Wardens to follow up as appropriate**

## **Children's Worker update DW**

DW advised that Harriet's hours have now been increased by a day a week, and the we are awaiting a decision about additional diocesan funding. There have been 21 applications across the Diocese applying for funding from the Growing Faith Chaplaincy Fund.

NS wondered if there might be scope for funding from the Willat's Trust, who previously supported the children's worker role.

PP responded by stating that previous funding had ended due to changes in grant criteria. We could however, go back to them now that Harriet's hours have been increased and the scope of the role extended.

**Action: PP and DW to discuss further**

## **Warden's Report**

MN reported .....

South Tower – The works on the tower have now been finished and the remaining scaffold was removed last week. Whilst the tower on the South side was in place we took the opportunity of having 20 ridge tiles replaced at a cost of £400.

The following work was completed :

1. Dismantle Church bell tower down to cornice level.
2. Remove existing ferris metal cramps and replace with stainless steel cramps approx 6.
3. Remove defective cornice and install new Bath stone cornice with stainless steel cramps.
4. Rebuild Church tower to existing design using correct stainless steel fixings.

We also did the following that is covered with the contingency for extra work.

1. East leg: Lowered stooling / socket and cut back leg to make new plug.
2. Extra section of cornice. Re-cut and use original section of cornice to make up the length. Set with cramp and threaded bar.
3. 500mm length of stone worked and fixed for East leg.
4. NE and NW legs had unrepairable plugs at their bases, so sockets were cut into the bottom of these and laid with new stone plugs (cubes).
5. Pinning/stitching with glue x 8 (various stones) to arrest early signs of fracture.
6. 2 No. Indent stone repairs the legs. These were needed to repair badly fractured and or eroded sections of existing stone.

This was at a cost of £66,619.94. The original quote was in the region of £49,000.

Warm Space : We have had another grant from South Glos for £1050 to last until the end of March. This is still proving very successful, we had about 90 people in today with live music and a light lunch. The volunteers are still very happy.

#### **Giving 4 Life JP**

JP reported that the provisional 2023 figures were encouraging, thanks to increased giving and the two legacies. Gabrielle is working with Burton Sweet on the final accounts which will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

NS asked to have sight of the 2024 Budget.

**Action: JP will forward relevant documents.**

JP Confirmed the Staff salary increase proposal of £4% in line with January CPI

**AP PROPOSED**

**PP SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Action: PP to notify Elissa and Gabrielle**

JP advised that with regard to the works on the South Tower, there is now a deficit in the AMP Fund of £28,000. Chris Green has agreed in principle a transfer of £14,000 from the QR account, which will leave a shortfall of £14,000. MN advised that we are due a VAT rebate of £11,848.70.

PP proposed that the transfer be arranged from the QR accounts, and that once the VAT rebate had been confirmed, any shortfall should come from general funds to return the AMP to zero.

**PP PROPOSED**

**MN SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Action: JP to liaise with Chris Green and bookkeeper to action the above**

#### **Parish Safeguarding**

4 DBS checks in the last period and nobody waiting.

1 ID check, 1 DBS being processed, 1 being followed through, 2 waiting for references.

#### **Training Update**

PP reminded the group of the priority of completing the online training modules.

**Action: PP to ensure NS has access to training modules**

**Year planner**

PP talked through a draft year planner for PCC and other key parish meetings. It will serve as a reminder of key agenda items through the year and will help us to plan more effectively. Any suggestions for developing it further speak to PP.

**Correspondence CP**

CP advised that we have received a thank you from Transform Europe Network for our latest quarterly donation of £694.72 to support Misa in Moldova. We have also received a thank you from Church Mission Society for our generous gift of £2716.78 supporting Ben and Katy Ray.

**Any Other Business**

DW was delighted to announce that on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at the 9.30am Holy Communion service, Philip Rowe would be licensed to the team by Archdeacon Christopher. DW thanked Philip for all his hard work at CC.

DW&BA will be travelling to Bulgaria in April to attend the TEN Conference where they will meet up with Pastor Misa.

PP reported that Anne Louise and others had suggested more up to date hymn books for QR. It is proposed that The 30th Anniversary edition of Mission Praise is purchased which includes old and new hymns. 40 copies plus 4 music books could be purchased using part of Bob Southgate's legacy. The cost will be approximately £500.00. PP intends to talk to the congregation at QR about this ideal on Sunday

**DW PROPOSED**

**NS SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

**Action: PP to discuss with congregation and follow through**

AR closed the meeting in prayer.

..... signed  
1.5.2024 ..... dated

**Next meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024**

**APCM Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024**