

## **MINUTES OF CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND PCC – MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024**

**Those Present : Paul Peterson, Dan Watts, Andy Pound, Julian Cox, Nigel Stowe, Katie Allen, Lynda Lloyd, Sally Green, Debbie Pastwa, Bryan Ashton, Maggie Nicholls, Roger Cholmondeley and Caroline Plummer.**

**Apologies: Richard Bacon, Philip and Ali Rowe.**

**PP** welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lynda Lloyd to the group. He reminded us of Genesis chapter 1 verses 1-13 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' 'God saw that it was very good.' Humans have a responsibility to look after God's earth. We are stewards of this world. **PP** encouraged trustees to be good stewards of all that is entrusted to us as PCC Members - to look after the environment, church buildings and finances, staff and volunteers, the wider church community and the Parish. A time of prayer followed.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 were approved and signed.

**NS** suggested that the Minutes of the meeting should be circulated earlier than a week before the next meeting. **CMP to ensure this is actioned.**

### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

**CMP** reported that 3 nominations had been received for Revd. Paul Peterson as Chair and 2 nominations had been received for Nigel Stowe as Vice Chair.

**MN PROPOSED            DW SECONDED**

**ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **New and Ongoing Business**

#### **PCC Code of Conduct**

**PP** drew the members attention to the Code of Conduct and it was agreed that this would continue to guide us in the forthcoming PCC year.

#### **Christ Church Vision Update**

**NS** advised that a Strategy Group had now been set up and had met twice. As part of this we are looking at developing our strapline 'Learning to Live the Life' to include mention of Jesus. ie 'Learning to Live the Jesus Life'.

**DW** talked about our new venture Bubble Church. This will be a 35 minute service held once a month on a Sunday afternoon at the Church Centre. It is to connect with the young families living in the Bromley Heath area. Funding was agreed at our last meeting.

**DP** asked what age children would be invited?

**DW** advised that families with primary school children would be the main target.

**KA** asked if provision would be made for children with special needs?

**DW** replied that it would be short, interactive and magazine style service geared towards children and there would be plenty of space to move around which would help being more accessible for children with special needs. A small group from CC will be going to London shortly to a meeting to hear more details about the running of Bubble Church.

## **Living in Love and Faith/Prayers and of Love and Faith Implications and next steps**

**PP** set the scene by reminding trustees that during the APCM a question arose asking Dan where he stood on LLF/PLF.

**DW** talked about how he had spent time pondering, thinking and reflecting upon the implications of this question. At this point the meeting split into two smaller groups to discuss some pre-circulated questions. After some time the groups came back together and shared some of the findings.

The diversity of views was acknowledged, the potential for anger and feelings of exclusion and hurt. **DP** floated the idea of holding an open evening for people to talk to our church leaders about their perspectives and theological reflection.

**KA** was the spokesperson for the second group. They recognised that the younger generation might be more accepting of same sex wedding blessings. We should be able to support our church leaders in following their conscience, whilst seeking to hold together a bold spectrum of views within the congregation.

**RC** wondered whether it would be helpful to put things to a democratic vote?

**DP** suggested an anonymous question and answer box put at the back of the church.

**DW acknowledged** that the whole LLF process was complex and difficult but that it is important to wrestle with the issue and the questions that arise. It will be tricky to navigate a way through this and it will be costly. It does however, have to be engaged with fully. We must stay focused on Jesus and continue to prioritise sharing the Gospel. The Synod are meeting in July and again in February. We will revisit this again over the next year.

**DW** felt that some kind of document will need to be written up setting out expectations of those in leadership at CC. The teachings a d pastoral care offered in every area of CC life should be in line with those of the vicar and senior leadership. Some leaders might hold a different view but need to respect the clergy view and not teach or pastor in a way that would undermine the position taken by the Vicar. A draft document will be put together and brought back to the next PCC meeting for members to have a look at.

**PP** prayed for wisdom around this issue.

## **Energy Audit next steps**

**PP** welcomed James Gardner to the meeting.

**JG began by** asking the question 'why should we invest for net zero energy usage at CC by 2030?'

**LL** remarked that it is for our care of the environment, thinking about the book of Genesis. Nature works well but man has created many problems for it.

**MN** commented that we must do something or we could lose nature as we know it.

**NS** felt that we should witness that we are caring for God's creation and it is the right thing to do.

**DP** reminded us to be good stewards, spend money wisely to save energy and the environment.

**MN** reminded us that there are ongoing expenses with the church and that there will be other spending priorities alongside this. Eg the roof does need work doing.

**BA** expressed the opinion that 2030 was not possible to be at net zero. There is too much work to be done and a huge cost is involved. We have been told that a heat pump will not work in church because of the opening of the doors and the ambient temperature.

**JG** believes that a national target date of 2030 has been made as a motivational thing. The Energy and Building survey by Bristol Diocese has been completed. Is the PCC happy to confirm its commitment?

**JC** suggested looking to see how we can achieve this by 2030. Aim high!

**BA** advised that we must be realistic about this - we cannot raise £300,000 for works to be done in this space of time.

**JG** said that we need a vision - we need a plan.

**DW** replied that there are ways of making this happen. We must continue to promote Jesus Christ and we must have a well thought out plan.

**JG** proposed a small working group to come back with a proposal for PCC to look at. It was agreed that this would consist of **JG Chair, PP, BA, MN and RC**. A meeting would be set up within the next 3 months followed by 2 further meetings between PCCs next year. This group would be committed to building a vision to move towards net zero by 2030.

**NS** suggested communicating this information to the congregation. **JG** to draft a document to be endorsed by CC leadership.

**KA** suggested including two young people on the small group to get the younger generation perspective on net zero. **PP to speak to youth leaders to gauge interest.**

**PP** thanked **JG** for his hard work on this topic.

### **Staffing Update**

**DW** reported that the recent appointment of the School Chaplaincy team leader will incur costs for the purchase of resources for prayer spaces and new projects. He tabled a proposal for an expense budget for the remainder of 2024 of £500.00. This money could come out of the Southgate legacy.

**DW PROPOSED**                      **NS SECONDED**

### **ALL IN FAVOUR**

**AP Staff Handbook** – no further progress. Staffing sub committee meeting in July to review further policies.

**DW** advised that Elissa Wiltshire has asked to reduce her hours from 20 pw to 12 pw, due to family circumstances. She will be spending 8 hours per week on finance and 4 hours on IT. Beth Mullings is happy to take on the role as Parish Administrator with some training from Elissa. At the moment Beth will not increase her hours per week but this will be reviewed in September. Beth will take over this role at the beginning of July. She will also have a slight hourly increase in pay to the Parish Administrator rate.

**PP** proposed that the Book Keeper's contracted hours be increased by 5 hrs 30 mins per month, rather than us pay her overtime at year end as we have done over the past 2 years.

**PP PROPOSED**                      **DW SECONDED**

## **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Warden's Report**

**MN** advised that "since our last meeting, the work on the CCTV system and security commenced today. I met with the Architect, Paul Chester and the Company to ascertain where the wiring would be installed. Hopefully most of the wiring can be hidden in the ceiling voids and so there will be little need for trunking. The work will take 2 days with a possible further half day to complete. Our electrical systems have all been checked today having had the sockets installed for the security system and the extra sockets in the kitchen. The lightning conductors on the Church were checked and repaired last week. I have applied for B6 permission for the new Noticeboard on Downend Road today with Katie's help with the plans etc. I have also started B1 permission for felting and retiling the Chancel roof.

Painting of some of the inside of the Church building – Andy Pound has agreed to do some of this. As far as the main doors are concerned we had three painters to assess the doors. The best quote is from Griffin Property Services in the sum of £750 to paint the front and back doors".

**BA PROPOSED that this quote be accepted**

**MN SECONDED**

## **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Parish Safeguarding**

Completed Checks during April, May and June 2024 - 2  
Those waiting for DBS process – none  
Those waiting for ID checks – 1  
Those currently being process by 31.8 – 1  
Those recently invited for on line application – 2  
Those invited to do the DBS process who have not yet replied - 3  
Those who have stated no longer required a DBS - 5  
Those on hold as no further progress – none

**PP** wished to thank Laura Green for all her hard work around safeguarding at CC.

**NS** wondered if Elissa would carry on her administrative role within safeguarding?

**DW** replied that it was the current intention.

### **Approval of Communion Assistants**

**DW PROPOSED Dave Churchman and Lee Hill**

**KA SECONDED**

## **ALL IN FAVOUR**

### **Correspondence CMP – NONE**

**DW** reminded folk about the barbeque he was holding for PCC members and their partners at 6pm on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Vicarage.

**Meeting closed in prayer at 9.12pm.**