

Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday 25th September 2023

Meeting at 7.30pm in the Conservatory

2023/24 PCC Members: David Bennett, Peter Breckwoldt (Chair), Steve Cornick (Treasurer), Nigel Day (Warden), Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Alan Fryer, Stuart Hull (Warden), Mike Jones, Paula Jones, Matt Lee (Associate Minister), Keith Loveless, David Morgan, Mary Morris, Phil Murray, James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham. Co-opted: Jenny Harris, Gillian Mannouch.

PCC Secretary: Kathy Zeal

MINUTES

1. Welcome, Bible reading and opening prayers PB/ML

Peter welcomed everybody and asked Matt to open with a few words from the Bible. Matt shared from Philippians Ch 4 v 14-16. Partnership with fellow Christians and churches was vital for Paul's ministry. Paul valued spiritual, practical and financial fellowship. This is something we can think about in relation to an item on the Agenda tonight looking towards partnership and sharing gifts and resources with other churches in the area.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Fleming, Phil Murray and Paul Wareham.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 17th July 2023 PB

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 17th July 2023 were proposed by Nigel Day and seconded by Paula Jones. All were in approval.

4. Matters Arising:

a) LLF and related matters PB

There is not much to report to date. A lot will depend on the Agenda and outcome of the next General Synod Meeting mid-November. Local churches are sharing their possible responses with one another.

5. Finance SC

a) Accounts to 31st August 2023

Income for Jan – Aug £231,248 (Budget £207,304)

Expenses Jan – Aug £215,663 (Budget £233,936)

Net Income less Expenses, surplus £15,585

Legacy/Capital Grant £9,125

Major building works £35,130 (taken from reserves)

Overall Net income less Expenses -£10,420 This figure is better than anticipated.

b) Major expenditure >£1000

Joy Plumbing: £1,104 for boiler services 14/6/23

Voiseys: £2,013.64 electrical fault and items in church office

RLM architects: £1,304.70

c) Fund Balances & Any matters requiring attention

Balances as of 22nd September 2023

General Fund £16,941.82
CAF No 2 Works Account £139,175.86
CAF No3 Major works 2
Youth Account £1,023.59
Children's Account £913.68
GAT £10,803.86

Richard Phinn has submitted the Gift Aid tax claim for Jan – August. The estimate is £36,000 The Initio Learning Trust has paid £2,400 for drainage work done between the school and the church.

Financial Forecast SH

Stuart is working on this. The current position is that we will break even in 2023 with a potential deficit in 2024 if we appoint a Youth Worker. Income is recorded as flat but we are encouraged that it may rise. Costs however, may also rise. If we appoint a Youth Worker, we may have to appeal to the Congregation to cover costs. This will be discussed at the next PCC meeting.

6. Parish Mission Autumn 2024 PB

Steve Legg has been booked to come to St John's on Saturday 25th November (evening). He is a TV entertainer and illusionist. He is sadly dying due to cancer and has a testimony to share. The evening is designed to give a foretaste of the format of meetings planned for the Mission. A group will gather to plan the Mission after Peter returns from Kenya. The evening will be advertised soon.

7. Helping other churches ML

Some discussion followed regarding sharing our resources with other churches. The PCC looked at the nature of the service, regular or by occasional invitation only? Would we just be supporting or were there other aims? How would we feel about supporting churches of a different theology? Would there be enough people to resource a church somewhere? The general feeling was to pray that God would put it on the hearts of people to ask for help and that we should be open to listen and to support those who may be invited to help elsewhere.

8. Deanery Synod Report PB

Making Jesus Known is the new vision for the Diocese of Salisbury. It was affirmed by diocesan synod in June 2023. Peter, Matt and Jenny attended the meeting on 20th September. Peter declared that we were in agreement with the Bishop in evangelism. We need to stand up and be counted in making Jesus of the Bible known. Regarding finance, Matt felt that our approach was to teach discipleship and giving would increase as a result. The approach at the meeting appeared to be more how we could get people outside the community to fund the church. We are on board regarding climate justice and are still working in this respect. Jenny commented that the greatest need is to know Jesus and there was nothing specifically mentioned about young people and children. Peter commented that the meeting was not everything we would want but it had been valuable to attend.

9. Sub-committees - reports

a) Standing and Finance Committee - 18/09/2023 PJ

Most items had been covered during this meeting. Paula invited questions but there were no further issues.

b) Buildings Management Group – no meeting KL

c) Global Action Team - 19/09/2023 DM

David commended the minutes to the meeting and the PCC briefly discussed the document giving guidance on the levels of publicity and prominence the church should give to different organisations. It had been noted that the Wilkinsons felt a 5-7 minute interview every two years was inadequate when they were invited to take the whole service in their other two supporting churches. The need to give each Global Action partner raised profile for example, in taking a whole service, was noted but sometimes this was difficult if several partners were here at the same time.

d) Youth and Children's - no meeting SH

e) St John's Pre-School - no meeting PB

Peter commented that Louise was now Headmistress and that the school was full. Their reputation is very good. It was noted that three members of staff may leave next year.

10. Standing items: PB

- a) Health and Safety nothing to report.
- b) Activities/RA's to approve.
 - i) Apple Pressing on Minster Green 14th October 2023 all approved.

A question was raised regarding every PCC member needing to study every RA presented. This would be discussed at the next PCC meeting. There was a possibility one or two PCC members who were familiar with RAs could endorse them permitting the PCC as a whole to approve events as presented.

c) Safeguarding – any matters to report

There were two areas of concern. Peter shared a few details with the PCC.

It was noted that the Wardens and PCC all needed to complete the Domestic Abuse Training.

2023 Meeting Dates:

Monday 27th November

KAZ 02/10/2023