



Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday 27th November 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**

Peter welcomed everybody and shared some thoughts from Hebrews Chapter 3 verse 13, "But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "today", so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." He himself had been encouraged by a church couple in the week and had found it uplifting and energising. Encouragement was an essential way of extending God's grace towards one another and we should look out for opportunities to lift another's heart towards the Lord.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Morris and Phil Murray.

3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 25th September 2023 **PB**

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 25th September 2023 were proposed by David Morgan and seconded by Janine Thomas. All were in approval.

4. Finance **SC**

a) Accounts to 30th September 2023

Steve presented the Treasurer's Report to the 30th September 2023:-

Income £259,228 Budget £236,517
Expenses £245,717 Budget £263,178
Net income less expenses for 9 months to 30/9/23 surplus of £13,511
Legacy/Capital Grant received £9,125
Major building works £35,580
Overall Net income less expenses for 9 months to 30/9/23 deficit of £12,944

a) Major expenditure >£1000

£2116 HR solutions 17/11/23

c) Fund Balances & Any matters requiring attention

Balances as of 27th November 2023

General Fund	£22,475.51
CAF No 2 Major Works Account 1	£159,987.90
CAF No3 Major works 2	£7,353.17
Youth Account	£1,361.22
Children's Account	£1,224.33
GAT	£21,818.86

£28,361 was received from HMRC 25th October re Tax reclaimed.

5. Budget for 2024

a) Church budget SH

Stuart presented the Annual Budget for St John's for 2024. This was a balanced budget based on an increase of £10,000, 4% on 2023 giving as income has been rising. The expenditure was also lower, mainly due to the church not yet appointing a Youth Worker.

Some discussion followed as the Budgeting process had removed the Youth Worker salary from the figures. It was agreed that this should be reinstated proportionately, with a view to appointing a Youth Worker by September 2024, and a deficit budget adopted. Stuart would present a revised budget incorporating this amendment to a couple of representatives of the PCC for approval on behalf of the whole Council. Subject to this amendment, the budget was generally approved by the Committee.

Further discussion took place regarding the division of our £106,000 diocesan contribution where the proposal was to cap the contribution at £67,400 to cover ministry costs and to give the remainder of £38,600 to the Ephesians Fund which was established to support ministry in those churches who did not wish to follow the current direction the Bishops were taking. These figures were agreed in principle but it was noted further communication was needed with local CEEC churches to ensure we were adopting a similar approach to the matter.

b) Pre-school budget PB

Peter presented the Pre-School budget to the PCC which has a deficit of £10,751 based on 80% occupancy of places. It was hoped that 100% occupancy could be achieved again soon and the church was advertising on the electronic noticeboard. It was noted that in line with church practice, staff salaries would be increased above the National Living Wage. (£11.44 in April 2024) where appropriate. It was also expected that the Government would be increasing funding of places so hopefully on balance, the deficit could be turned around. The Pre-school also holds £40,000 in reserves. Bearing these matters in mind, Peter recommended acceptance of the Pre-School Budget. This was seconded by Stuart Hull. All were in agreement.

6. LLF Update PB

15 Bishops have dissented from the latest amendment brought to Synod in the LLF debate. It appears there will be some need for structural rearrangement within the Church of England. Bishop Stephen of Salisbury would accept our seeking alternative episcopal oversight as we are not proceeding along the same road as the majority of Bishops in this matter. Peter and Matt are travelling up to London in a few days' time to meet with other members of the CEEC to discuss the way forward and receive more details about the Ephesian Fund.

Some discussion followed about our support of members of our church family who were struggling with this issue. The PCC were of one mind in that we wish to welcome everybody to our church with love but that loving doesn't always mean we are in agreement. There would also be a need to explain why we were withholding some of our Diocesan contribution and to share details about the Ephesian Fund once these were clarified.

7. Global Action DM

Some discussion followed regarding the request from the Global Action Team to give increased profile for our Global Action Partners in church services. It was noted that the GA Partners generally receive an opportunity to speak in the all-age slot in church and to be interviewed at least once every three years. The main request was for those who wish, to be able to preach on a passage of their own choice which could lend to them being able to share about their ministry. It was accepted that the leadership team could not adopt a "one size fits all" approach as not all Partners would want to preach and a number of those with younger children currently arrived back in the summer holidays when the programme was totally family services. The notes provided by the GA Team were welcomed and the Church leadership team would be aware of them in their future planning and decision making.

8. Deanery Synod Report PB

Peter commended the Minutes to the PCC. David Morgan, Gillian Mannouch and Nick Elbourne had attended the meeting.

9. Sub-committees - reports

a) Standing and Finance Committee - 13/11/2023 PJ

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

b) Buildings Management Group – 14/11/23 KL

Item 4:2 Internal Lighting - The tenders had been significantly higher than hoped. The BMG had reviewed and prioritised works with costs from the lowest Tenderer to see if a phased approach was feasible. Phase 1 would be the replacement of the nave downlighters which hopefully would not require Full Faculty, just List B application.

The costs involved were £8552 plus VAT. £5000 has already been gifted to this project. The PCC were all in agreement that the BMG could proceed with this phase.

Item 4:7 The gas underground pressure regulating equipment needs to be moved further away from the Conservatory under latest requirements. An area of grass nearer Leigh Road was considered in principle subject to a number of details so that we can continue to use for parking. It will need Faculty and Planning Permission. SGN hope to carry out their work in 2024 and will give a consideration of £3K.

The PCC were all in agreement that this should go ahead.

Item 8:0 General window repairs were needed which Tim Glen was attending to. Keith was waiting for quotes to seal, vent or remove an old chimney flue.

Item 10:1 Youth Lounge Doors. Improvements were still needed. The BMG will pass costs through to the Standing and Finance Committee.

c) Global Action Team – no meeting DM

d) Youth and Children's – 09/10/23 SH

Stuart commended the minutes to the meeting.

e) St John's Pre-School – 12/10/23 PB

Peter commended the minutes to the meeting. The Budget has already been discussed.

10. Standing items: PB

a) Health and Safety – the kitchen has been inspected and has been given a 5* Classification. Nothing else to report.

b) Activities/RA's to approve.
None.

c) Safeguarding
Nothing to report.

11. Parish Mission 2024

a) Steve Legg evening – feedback

The evening had been very enjoyable and entertaining. There had been hope that Steve would have talked more about his Christian faith and how it impacted his current situation but one visitor had been impressed by the way Steve had chosen "Joy" as a path. Gillian commented that a couple of Facebook friends had come after seeing her post invitation so it was good to include use of social media.

b) Parish Mission – October 2024

The first Group planning meeting will be held in December 2023. The PCC were encouraged to recommend speakers.

12. Any other Business

None – the meeting closed by saying The Grace together.

Next Meeting:

Monday 29 January 2024 7.30pm (Conservatory)

Also see PCC Meeting Dates 2024

KAZ 30/11/23