



## Parochial Church Council Meeting

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### 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

The meeting began with the PCC expressing thanks to Kathy as she steps down from her role as PCC Secretary.

## MINUTES

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

Peter welcomed everybody and asked Matt to lead us with a word from the Bible. Matt shared a few thoughts from Romans Ch16 v16, "Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings." This verse is a reminder of the love and affection which Paul held for all those who knew the Lord Jesus and a following of Jesus command to us to love one another as we will particularly remember this upcoming Maundy Thursday. He shared some of the encouragement we receive from partnering with other churches locally.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Fryer, David Morgan, Phil Murray and Janine Thomas.

### 3. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

The minutes of the PCC meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January were proposed by Paul Wareham and seconded by John Fleming. All were in approval.

### 4. Matters Arising (all elsewhere on agenda):

### 5. Finance **SC** to report

#### a) Accounts to date

Steve presented the Treasurer's Report to date. The Accounts are not yet finalised due to an upgrade of the accounting software. Waiting for figures for January and February 2024. The main priority is to complete accounts and reports for Stewardship examination.

#### b) Major expenditure >£1000

None to report.

#### c) Fund Balances & Any matters requiring attention

##### Balances as of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| General Fund       | £24,477  |
| CAF No 2           | £133,165 |
| CAF No3 Account    | £7,399   |
| Youth Account      | £2,158   |
| Children's Account | £253     |
| GAT                | £22,647  |

Another tax claim is awaited for the No 2 account.

#### **d) Final (amended) Budget for 2024 SH**

The PCC accepted the Budget as presented and there were no further questions.

#### **e) 2023 (year end) Accounts (update)**

2023 accounts are still a work in progress and the final draft should be available shortly. There is still some information to gather before Stewardship can conduct their examination. This is our first year with Stewardship as our auditors and with a new team preparing the accounts. We will be able to present draft accounts to the APCN for approval and assuming there to be no significant amendments, for acceptance in their final format by an emergency PCC meeting.

#### **f) New share proposals (various papers)**

The Committee have been made aware that the new system of calculating the Parish Share to go live in January 2025, will be based on the number of full-time clergy in one church (paid by the Diocese) and the number of regular attenders. (Those who attend at least once a month.) Estimation of £45,000 per clergy and £251 per member of congregation. Peter and Matt felt that this was a better system than previously applied. The expected increase for St John's would be around £10-11K for next year.

### **6. Ephesian Fund ML**

Our Parish Share has been paid into the Ephesian Fund but to date the Diocese do not recognise the Fund and have not withdrawn the amount to cover Peter's stipend and other expenses. Their position is that the Synod will not be deciding the outcome of LLF until the June 2024 vote so our actions are premature and we are regarded as "non payers." They would like us to pay directly. No privileges are removed by "non payer" status as the amounts are regarded as a gift rather than a payment. Peter will be meeting with Rural Dean Andrew to encourage the Diocese to take the money. This does not appear to be a problem in other Dioceses. It was agreed that information should continuously be made available to the congregation as there was still some confusion about the aims and administration of the Ephesian Fund. A question was raised about whether the Fund was gaining interest on the deposits. If not, the preference should be to invest the money ourselves. The S&F Committee will investigate this.

The PCC also received a paper introducing "the Alliance" which is a network of networks including the CEEC, all of whom challenge the introduction of Prayers of Love and Faith in the Church of England without due process or due and proper regard for the Church's constitution.

### **7. Sub-committees - reports**

#### **a) Standing and Finance Committee - 18/03/24 PJ**

Most items have been covered already but the S&F Committee also discussed the amalgamation of the Global Action Giving with General Giving. Some discussion followed.

**Resolution: This PCC agrees that the Global Action Team and the Finance Teams explore how we can combine our funds in the future.**

Everybody voted in favour.

#### **b) Buildings Management Group – 08/03/24 KL**

Keith sought the PCC decision to progress the approvals by the Local Authority, possibly the Diocese together with a survey by RLM Architects for an accurate agreement of the location of the SGN equipment and the new Noticeboard.

**The PCC recommends that we explore the necessary approvals with the Diocese and the Local Authority for relocation of the Gas Governor.** Everybody voted in favour.

Keith sought a PCC decision to proceed with a plan of action as circulated previously to repair the Foyer Duct and Atrium floors.

**The PCC proposes that Faculty and building regulation (if required) is obtained for the Foyer Duct and Atrium repairs.** Everybody voted in favour.

Spetisbury Construction have been instructed to look at the floor between the hall and the kitchen where there appears to be a water leak.

The lead theft is covered by insurance, approval to proceed is awaited. Dylan Faber have carried out emergency repairs and quoted for non-lead alternatives to minimise any further lead theft damage.

The Pre-school have enquired about replacement of the church hall carpet. This may be complicated as there is the possibility of asbestos containing tiles underneath.

Keith thanked his BMG team, particularly Paul Wareham, for all their assistance.

Keith is stepping down as Chair of the BMG, he will remain on the PCC and Architect Consultant for the church. Peter expressed thanks and appreciation for Keith's contributions and expertise over many years. The PCC were all in agreement with this and duly applauded.

**c) Global Action Team – No meeting DM**

Approval has been approved to progress proposed financial changes (see S&F Minutes above.)

**d) Youth and Children's – update from ML**

Not much new to report. Still no particular interest in the Youth Worker post.

**e) St John's Pre-School – (meeting TBC) PB**

The Surplus Recharge Policy has been agreed as stated in the S&F Minutes of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**8. Deanery Synod Report 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 PB**

The Report from the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 was commended to the PCC. Derek Howshall and Gillian Clark are stepping down in June 2024. A proxy vote has been allowed to elect more candidates for the Diocesan Synod for those unable to attend the next meeting.

**9. Standing Items:**

a) Health and Safety

Nothing to report.

b) Activities/RA's to approve.

Compass Outing to Highclere Castle 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Paula has approved the RA. The PCC voted in favour.

c) Safeguarding

Nothing to report.

**10. Parish Mission October 2024**

The dates are 2nd – 6th October 2024. Peter shared various possibilities for Speakers, Tod Alexander may need a day change, James Graham and his father were going to do another Wine Tasting Evening. A couple from The Repair Shop and a Quartet of musicians, Pat Lamb from Bristol Bears could possibly lead a Sports Quiz Wednesday or Thursday evening. Professor John Wyatt was still in the frame.

It was possible the Chef from Critchell House could do the catering.

Ideally a follow up course should be arranged but it would be tight because of the proximity to Christmas.

**11. Any other Business**

John Fleming advised the PCC that he was taking over from John Rynne who has stepped down from organising the Good Friday Walk of Witness. Peter thanked him. John requested the help of Stewards from the PCC.

The meeting closed with prayer and saying the Grace together.

**Next Meeting:**

**Mondays 20<sup>th</sup> May, 15<sup>th</sup> July, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7.30pm (Conservatory)**

KAZ 29/03/24