



## Parochial Church Council Meeting AGENDA FOR MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024 7.30pm in the Conservatory

**2024/25 PCC Members:** David Bennett, Peter Breckwoldt (Chair), Steve Cornick (Treasurer), Nigel Day (Warden), Nick Elbourne, John Fleming, Alan Fryer, Jenny Harris, Stuart Hull (Warden), Mike Jones, Paula Jones, Matt Lee (Associate Minister), Keith Loveless, Gillian Mannouch, David Morgan, Lisa Perry (Minutes), James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham.

<p>1. Welcome &amp; opening prayers – PB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Welcome new members: printed PCC Members booklet circulated. Requires update to replace Queen with King.</li> <li>b) Trustee Eligibility: printed eligibility statement signed by all.</li> <li>c) Photo of new Committee completed.</li> <li>d) Safeguarding courses – reminder for existing and new members</li> </ul>	<p><b>ACTIONS</b> <b>PJ</b></p>
<p>2. Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) NE, AF, GM, PW</li> </ul>	
<p>3. Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 25/3 - Proposed by John, seconded by Paula, approved by all.</li> <li>b) 24/4 – Proposed by Steve, seconded by Mike, approved by all.</li> </ul>	
<p>4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)</p> <p>5. Revd Dr Lee Gatiss (Zoom at 7.45pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Bible reading and thought for the night (LG) Tough reading Cof E news currently. Nehemiah 8:10 gives us the solution- ‘do not be grieved for the joy of the Lord is your strength’. Joy protects us from the devil and his plots - and that joy changes our souls and our responses to what is happening. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!</li> <li>b) Church of England and LLF (LG) – presentation Today’s Guardian report shows decline in worshipper numbers from pandemic and after- 1.2% of the England population. Numbers training for Anglican ministry has fallen sharply - we need 600 p.a., but we have about 200. 80 ordinands met recently to voice concerns about being ordained by bishops of liberal views. This can only accelerate the drive to merge parishes. Consequently, this can turn ministers into little more than a “mass priest” - little time for evangelism and in-depth pastoral care. LLF is the biggest aspect. Officially we remain within the 39 articles, and canon law clearly states marriage is between 1 man and 1 woman for life. Post the state introduction of civil partnership and same-sex marriages, some Bishops now moving to legitimise same-sex marriages for vicars, and for same-sex partners in general wanting to get married in church. We are being told that this is not a change of doctrine or official teaching. General Synod is split on what to do next. Just under half are holding the line. Alliance of various clergy and charismatics, supported by World Wide Anglican Church in GAFCON. These have called on Archbishop of Canterbury to repent. So, what can PCC do? We must all pray! Keep on holding out the gospel and making Jesus known. Be clear on what this means for us today - read, research, get taught. Write to our Bishops and let them know how we feel.</li> </ul>	

Consider joining Church Society as individuals.  
Engage with CofE Evangelical Council and the wider alliance of evangelicals.  
Consider using the Ephesian fund (St John's already are).

c) Questions

*Q1: Is there an idea of compromise at some point? Do you see a solution of this kind being likely?*

Lee: Good point. Look at the example of women bishops. We have Bishop of Ebbsfleet to serve those parishes who have disagreed with that. It hasn't worked very well as has been undermined from the start and pushed us into a corner. Talk is that compromises will be minimal, piecemeal and on a diocese-by-diocese basis. So not good as we need something on a national basis. Unless we push now, we will be voiceless, as bishops will feel able to ignore.

*Q2: Thanks for what you have said. Should I remain in the C of E when it is led by all these false teachers?*

Lee: First question should be: "am I happy with this church and the leadership?". Your local parish church is your first relationship and spiritual guidance.

*I am happy with the church and the teaching and leadership.*

Lee: As for the wider issue, as a PCC member you can think about wider protest e.g. via use of Ephesian fund.

We all have different responsibilities, but as a member, don't feel you are obliged to solve this yourself.

*Q3: You are asking us to send message via a variety of ways, so that Bishops see we are serious about these issues, but to what end - so that they offer structural provision for us?*

Lee: Ultimately that they should repent (in a godly and gentle way to reprove them)  
Secondly, if they do not, yes they need to know that we want better provision.

*Q4: Attendance levels are dropping. Has there been any research to see where attendees are going? Other churches? Stopping? What can we do to bring this to the attention of Bishops?*

Lee: In terms of C of E - fringe members affected by Pandemic, and they realised they didn't need to physically attend. Tide of Atheism generally, although this is changing. Also, some evangelical Christians are going to denominations where this is not an issue. A few are leaving for some alternative Anglican structures (e.g. AMIE, supported by GAFCON). We have a spiritual responsibility for being where we are (God has placed us here). Also consider: if you leave, you cannot take the building, the assets etc.

*Q5: Can you outline a brief timeline of the process regarding synod decisions?*

Lee: Last weekend and end of last week - meetings and conferences. College and House of Bishops will meet in June, and bring something to the July meeting of the General Synod.

Current push: Standalone services of same-sex blessings, rather than wrapped up in wider services, as current practice. Standalone provides a kind of equivalency to marriage service.

They will also recommend clergy can enter same-sex marriages without discipline.

Some will enforce the current discipline, and others will not.

PB thanked Lee for his time and contending for the gospel, and assured him of support from St John's.	
6. Finance – SC to report	
a) Accounts to March '24 – presented and accepted.	
b) Major expenditure (>£1,000) – £1,105 for Conservatory curtains; £2,650 on heating bills; parish share.	
c) Fund Balances Childrens Account    1,268.69 General Account    54,205.93 Global Action    21,102.97 Youth    2,028.83 No 2 a/c    134,123.33 NO 3 a/c    7,445.12	
d) 2023 (yearend) Accounts (update)	
7. Ephesian Fund update (PB) Parish share currently held in the Ephesian Fund, pending Salisbury Diocese decision whether to accept. PB/Wardens in communication with them. Currently we are the only Parish using Ephesian fund. Another did request an alternative. We have been approached by a local church, asking if we can provide them with financial support. This would ideally come out of the Ephesian Fund – aligning with our instruction to CEEC/Salisbury Diocese to use funds exceeding ministry costs to support local churches holding to the CEEC basis of faith. <i>Question: Do we receive the interest on the share being held in the fund. [Update: once the money has left our account, it is no longer ours to earn interest on.]</i> <i>Question: The local church requesting mission funding - is that dependent on the diocesan decision re the Ephesian fund? PB confirmed, yes, and has made this clear to the church in question.</i> Comment: Feedback from the congregation suggests many are unaware of what the Ephesian Fund is. Whilst some information has been provided, it was acknowledged that we can provide further information, and that PCC members can explain to church family when asked.	
8. Sub-committees – reports	
a) S&F – 6 <sup>th</sup> May – previously circulated. <i>Question: Can we justify the cost of a Youth Worker? See (8d)</i>	
b) BMG – no meeting.	
c) GAT – 17 <sup>th</sup> April - Minutes circulated. David highlighted the presence of Sarah Hopkins here in the UK for some months and Georgie Hett arriving end June. Tearfund Sunday 30th June. There was some discussion about the proposal to amalgamate the GA fund into the main General fund – this is a work in progress. Global Action Sunday: Nov. 3rd - focus on Streetlight. PB thanked David and the GA team for keeping us mission minded.	
d) Y&C In reference to the question above, Matt responded that we have had a gap in C & YW which has worked its way through from Core through Fuse and now to the 16–19-year-olds. We are trying to give good provision to them. We are imagining a 50/50 arrangement where time is split between the Fuse group and serving in church, e.g. on tech or children's groups. It's so important for the church, and to have older role models for younger kids, and the opportunity for FUSE members to bring their friends from outside church.	

<p>Matt highlighted that he feels this burden hugely and so invests in this age group, but this means that he cannot be free currently to do other things within his role as Associate Minister.</p> <p><i>Question: What are the barriers to finding a YW, and are other churches seeing this?</i></p> <p>Yes, as there is a shortage of YW's nationally. Wimborne doesn't attract lots of single people in their 20's!</p> <p>ML is encouraged – two recent candidates – discussion ongoing.</p> <p><i>Q: Budget wise have we thought of joining with other churches to form a centrally funded group?</i></p> <p>ML yes, we have, it's a great idea, and we will look at it again. But it feels perhaps that we have <i>some</i> youth, whereas the Lantern has lots, but not many in other churches locally. It also raises the question - where would a shared Youth Worker go on a Sunday morning...?</p> <p>SH commented that youth work is generally positive, looking to shape groups and group boundaries.</p> <p><i>Question: Are we opening out to outlying churches?</i></p> <p>Yes - Thurs and Fri eves we get people from further afield, lots from friend networks. The Youth Alpha was hugely helpful in growing that community.</p>	
<p>e) St John's Pre-School – 2<sup>nd</sup> May – minutes previously circulated. No questions.</p>	
<p>9. Deanery Synod Report – no meeting. Next one is 11 June, Peter is hoping to attend, and will ask NE.</p>	
<p>10. Standing Items:</p>	
<p>a) Health &amp; Safety – nothing to report</p>	
<p>b) Activities / RA's to approve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Preschool trip to library – approved by all.</li> </ul>	
<p>c) Safeguarding – nothing to report</p>	
<p>11. Parish Mission October 2024 update</p> <p>PB reported that plans are becoming more concrete - a different feel and flavour to the Real Lives week. A broader brush and variety. Great team helping to put it together.</p> <p>Family fun quiz on weds eve. An illusionist for CORE then later for the main church on Thursday. James and John Graham doing a wine tasting evening on Friday. Repair Shop ladies on Saturday evening. Possible Saturday brunch. Testimonies being shared on Sunday morning, plus possible lunch.</p> <p>Linked around John's gospel for each evening, with invitations for further exploration. ML to bring these ideas to the next meeting.</p> <p>Funding required, to be met through attendance charge, as appropriate. PB considering whether to make an appeal to the wider congregation.</p> <p><i>Question: Who is on the group?</i> Peter, Joy, Matt, Adrian Harding, Paula and Mike Jones, James Graham, Ruth and Piers Butterfield, Miranda Bradshaw, Holly Clark, Gillian Mannouch.</p> <p>David would like notifications of dates of the meetings.</p> <p>Peter invited ideas.</p>	
<p>12. Any Other Business</p>	

**Future Meetings:** ge

Monday 15 July 7.30pm Main (Conservatory) – apologies received from Jennie Harris

Monday 23 September 7.30pm Main (Conservatory)

Monday 25 November 7.30pm Main (Conservatory)