



Parochial Church Council meeting Monday 23rd September 2024

2023/24 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, James Sharman, Janine Thomas, Paul Wareham

PCC secretary: Lisa Perry

1. Welcome & opening prayers

–PB (special welcome to members of the mission group who are updating PCC for the first half hour). ML led us in prayer.

2. Apologies: David Bennett, John Fleming

3. Approval of Minutes of Meetings on 15th July 2024 (previously circulated)

Q: re item 12 - AOB - requested clarity about what the recommendations were regarding the welcome team - 'PCC accepted recommendations.'

The Welcome Team will be invited to attend a morning which will include information about responsibilities and expectations of the role. This will be organised by the office.

Approval of minutes: SC proposed, seconded MJ, all approved.

4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda)

a) Church plant in Blandford – ML

Steven Driver had shared his vision for a church plant at Blandford St. Mary, formally approved now by Broadstone Baptist church. This is now definitely moving ahead for next September in Blandford.

b) Safeguarding training - all member of the PCC committee required to complete.

5. Finance

a) Accounts to July'24 provided. Up until the end of July, the net deficit was £23313.

b) Major expenditure (>£1,000) - Payments made to Spetisbury construction (Major works – most of which will be reclaimed under our insurance policy).

c) Fund Balances: COIF deposit of £80,000 has been made with CCLA Investments.

Parish Share increasing over 5 years from 115k to 138k.

Q: Expenses and income: seems a huge step up for renting from original projections?

- This is partially due to room bookings, as invoices are now up to date, but mostly because activities such as lunch club and Compass are now included in the main accounts, whereas they weren't previously.

PJ explained that we are in the process of streamlining budget line/nominal coding, which should simplify and clarify the management accounts.

d) 2023 Accounts (update): PJ explained that progress was on track to submit the accounts before the deadline, following the unforeseen delays. She thanked Gillian for providing significant assistance, especially whilst on compassionate leave.

The final set of accounts will look different from the draft as the new examiner has used their own template. Final approval will be sought from the PCC by email in order to meet the 31 October deadline.

SH - commented that the insured works are c50k, and uninsured works c27k, so coming from our savings, (this is why we have a reserve) and another 20k on the lighting.

e) Budget 2025

The draft budget will be presented at the November meeting. It is expected to be a deficit budget. In 2021, we were pledged 60-70k to recruit into key staff roles over the next three-year period. We have now received these monies, but retaining a full staff team is likely to result in a deficit going forward.

f) Global Action—plans for future giving

GA team - also expecting some budget pressures. David will be writing to all those who have given in the past to explain the options for giving under planned changes. David foresees fewer contributions coming in, not least because there will be no November appeal. PB commented that we are moving towards an integration of general and global action giving.

6.Preschool matters

a) Appointing a new Head

Louise Coll, Head of Preschool for six years, is moving onto a new post with the local authority. The Committee noted their thanks to Louise for her service and wished her well moving forward. The recruitment for her replacement is underway.

There are pressures on the preschool, which currently has spaces. It was noted that there is more competition from others who provide 'wraparound' places, now funded, which we do not offer.

Another staff member is leaving due to pregnancy and confirmed she will not return. However, staffing will be sufficient for now given the lower numbers and required ratios of staff to children.

b) New carpet - The preschool surplus will be used to pay for new commercial-grade carpet tiles in the hall. The church will pay for the floor works required to accommodate new carpet. Work will be done during October half term.

7.Sub-committees—reports

a) S&F - 9th September: Covered in PCC update.

b) BMG - 9th July: Please refer to the latest minutes. A busy summer! Huge thanks to KL and PJ who have coordinated the water leak works and ensured we are ready for the new term. BMG are updating the 5-year plan and converting it to a 3-year plan with actual costs. PB also mentioned thanks to Tim, and asks those present to thank him if you see him around - he has been a real asset.

Q: re BMG 09/07.24 minutes 5.1: concerned as a member of the welcome team that the minutes say the welcome team may not be fully informed about H&S matters. PB responded that, as the team are badged, people might approach them for assistance, and they should be

aware of procedures in event of an emergency evacuation. PW advised that BMG is keen to get this in place and have someone to co-ordinate it. This will be actioned by the office in liaison with key personnel.

The questioner was concerned about extra responsibilities on team members. PB responded that this is about trying to support our church family and remedying our shortcomings. The aim is to inform but not burden volunteers.

c) GAT - 11th July: DM - wants to be sure that all are comfortable with the financial changes being made. Changes will be much easier for new people, but DM recognises the changes may be less clear for those who have given regularly in the past. They will give greater security to our partners.

N.B. when we have a new partner, the PCC will have to approve that at meetings. This could be delegated to the GAT sub-committee.

Clear communications especially from David will assist with people to accept and manage changes.

SH we must make the case for change. Plainly, the current method doesn't deliver the budgets that the GAT partners need. SH reiterated that David does an incredible job!

ND - if people want to give direct to partners and not via St. John's, does St. John's end up filling that hole? DM—we expect this to be picked up in budget conversations with partners.

d) Y&C - update from SH: No minutes. SH advised that he has stepped down as Y&C Chair, to be replaced by Jayne Sharman. ML will report to the PCC as required. PB – Many, many thanks to SH for all that he has done.

e) St John's Pre-School–19th September: Please note the circulated minutes.

8. Deanery Synod Report – no meeting

9. Staff Matters

a) Youth Worker Trainee -update -ML: JL started and is getting to know the kids really well. ML advised that Youth Work is in the best place since he has been here. We have employed JL as a trainee for 20 hours per week. The aim is for Jeremy to become full-time once his training is complete, and subject to satisfactory performance.

GM - on compassionate leave due to bereavement and ongoing family matters. She is hoping to return to work next week but aware that her situation may prevent completing all her hours each week.

PB -reassured GM - of the love and support of the council, that GM is valued and appreciated, but reiterated the importance that GM does not over do things on her journey back to work.

10. Standing Items:

a) Health & Safety—matters to report - none

b) Activities / RA's to approve: Apple pressing. PJ has approved the risk assessment. Approved.

c) Safeguarding

- Any concerns to report - none
- Recruitment of ex-offenders' policy – approval required (see paper) required for our level 2 safeguarding. Approved.

- Update on reaching Level 2 (Parish Safeguarding): We are required to have 3 reports per annum to meet requirements for level 2. Two will be written reports, one will be the annual in-person update from our Safeguarding Officers.
- Safeguarding courses – essential, if not already completed:
<https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/login/index.php>

(Please confirm to Paula date of completion, if you haven't already)

11.Update on LLF

('A culture and church in crisis' leaflets available at the meeting)

PB refers to leaflet as a useful summary plus the letter to Archbishops Justin and Stephen from the alliance with many signatories. PB encourages all to sign up to alliance if you feel you can do so.

Ephesian Fund (EF) update: We still have an impasse with Diocese. However, there is an idea (discussed with John Dunnett of EF) to pay the money directly into the Diocesan account. Our payment has not yet been returned and we have now been offered a meeting. Bishop Steven will not be at the meeting, but the diocesan secretary and chair of finance are attending.

Salisbury is one of the very few dioceses which are not accepting funds from EF.

The EF payment was attached to a request that the money should go to cover the payment of the vicar. The rest has not yet been passed on pending discussion of its use for gospel purposes, and gospel churches.

Q: The dioceses which have been in receipt of EF payments - are they reporting back that this is happening?

PB - Not known

PB will ask

12.Parish Mission October 2024 update

Seven events over five days. Please pray for a good week.

13.Any Other Business

Covered in Q & A in minutes above.

Next Meeting: 7.30pm on Monday 25 November

2025 Meetings: 27 Jan, 24 Mar, 19 May, 21 Jul, 29 Sep, 24 Nov.

All Mondays at 7.30pm in the Conservatory.