

St. George's Church, Wilton
Minutes of the Parochial Church Council
Wednesday 4 May 2022

Present: Nick Griffin (Chair); Michael Yardley (Vice Chair); Peter Joyce; Jenny Norman; Chris Michell, Carole Smith; John Page; Claire Steel; Rosa Parsloe, Ian Pinder and Hilary McKegney; via Zoom. Helen Clegg (Minute Secretary)

Apologies: Matt Norman, Pete McKegney.

1. Nick opened the meeting with a reading from Psalm 68 and a time of prayer.
2. **The minutes of the last meeting** on 25 January 2022 were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chair.
3. **Action points from the last meeting.**

a. Safeguarding training

Liz Flower has reported that there has not been a great response of people doing Safeguarding training. Nick urged all those staying on the PCC to do this and it is recommended that all in church leadership need to do this. Hilary reported that the Pastoral visiting team are all doing the training.

b. Bike racks

Pete McK. Has got the funding for these from Taunton Deane and the racks are on order. When they arrive the Gardening team will be asked if they could remove a shrub before they are installed. **Action Pete McK**
The Scouts have been given some racks which are waiting outside the scout hut to be installed.

c. Future PCC members

Some additional names have been given to Nick and he is planning to approach them. Carole has found someone who has agreed to come on to the PCC. **Action Nick**

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

4. Annual Accounts for 2021

These have been circulated to the PCC already.

In the end just over £16,000 was withheld from the Parish Share but we should be able to pay it in full, or very nearly, next year. In 2021 we dropped around £9,000 in Hall rents, so if this recovers this year we will only be about £7,000 short and hopefully we will make this income up in other ways. The Parish Share has not been raised for 2022.

Nick asked what the Investments mentioned in the accounts referred to. Part of the allotments was sold off in the 1990's. The money is invested in a fund and we can't access the capital but we receive quarterly interest payments.

The accounts were accepted by the PCC, signed by Nick and will now go to Lentells who will return a bound copy to the church.

The treasurer concluded by reporting that the Hall Refurbishment Fund stood at £1,021 and the Churchyard Fund at £546.

The presentation of these accounts was John Page's last task as Treasurer having looked after the church accounts for the past 13 years. John expressed his relief but also his thanks as this was just the occupation he had needed when he first retired but felt now was the right time to surrender the role.

Nick expressed his own and the entire church's thanks to John for all his hard work and many hours spent on the accounts over the years.

5. Eco Church *Carole Smith*

Carole requested that we reconsider whether St. George's should aim to become an Eco Church. We have been an Eco Congregation for several years already. The Diocese is encouraging churches to look at this option. The motion was proposed that the PCC agree that this is a good thing to explore and work towards. The Christian Concerns team will take this on but need someone else to help them with the IT parts of the process. The PCC unanimously agreed to this.

6. Hearing Loop System *Peter Joyce*

People continue to report that they can't hear in the church building. An expert has been invited to inspect and test our system. The amplifier is really old. The advice is to replace the amplifier and then test it with the existing cable which runs around the inside of the church walls. A new cable may be necessary. The firm will bring the necessary testing equipment and complete the work for an estimated £800-£1300.

It was proposed that the PCC would approve in principle that the work be carried out and this was unanimously agreed. **Action Peter J**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7. Financial Update *Ian Pinder*

WIFI and associated equipment project update. All the money in the fund has now been spent.

During Ian's previous tenure as treasurer the income from the hall was around 20k and current income is less than half that figure.

As a church we don't receive many legacies and we could make this option better known. In the past there has been a tendency to ear-mark legacies for a special project and Ian advised that the money should not be ear-marked but used for general expenses.

On-line banking Ian is keen to get this set up and will explore the financial controls available. **Action Ian**

8. Vicar's Update

The attendance numbers are up. Last week the congregations at the services were 50 and 80. The average is above 100 each week. Our on-line numbers are over 300 subscribers.

The prayer room is now open. The door can be opened by an access code which is available to people requesting it. The work on the room isn't finished yet, but nearly, and it is usable. At the request of some members it will be opened on Sunday for those who would like to see it. **Action Nick/Bethan**

Intern Scheme

The scheme is now coming to the end of the year. Five people started, one dropped out and of the other four, three are taking steps towards ordination.

There are some more interns to be enrolled for next year.

Nick has met with South West Youth Ministries and the Diocese to explore if there is a way for them and St. George's to work together.

Geoff Treasure is starting up another Small Group bible study.

Following up on the Awayday Nick has asked various people to get a small group together to discuss questions he has given them, and then report back.

Paul Cole has been drawing up plans for:-

1. Changes to the front entrance of the vicarage to separate the house and office entrances to give more privacy for the vicarage.
2. Plans for the Hall to make it more visible, accessible and hireable. The last work on the Hall was done in 1987. We will need to have a special PCC meeting to look at all the plans
3. Church plans to improve the entrance, form a servery and install sustainable toilets.

9. Health and Safety

Additional fire extinguishers have been installed in the church.

The area under the stairs in the Hall accumulates rubbish and easily becomes a dumping ground and needs attention and thought to stop this.

The outside light at the back of the Hall has had its timing altered so that it stays on longer now.

Prayer room fire risk was discussed and the Insurance should be looked at to see if the room is included.

10. WIFI and associated equipment fund

All the money given has now been used. Live streaming is now functioning.

On Easter Sunday the 9.30am Service was live streamed. The difficulties with live streaming in the church is that the Sound Desk would need to be enlarged and this would require permission. Live streaming the 9.30 Service is the next step but it needs more money. More power points are needed in the Hall for the live streaming of the 11am service.

11. Christian Giving Scheme

Some people have dropped out of this but more have joined. In total the numbers are up.

12. Safeguarding

Liz Flower has reported that not many of the PCC have finished their training. All those continuing on the PCC after the APCM should do this asap. Hilary reported that the Pastoral Care Team have all done their training. Family Room (Dunning Room) at the 11am Service needs to be divided for 2 different age groups. Liz F. is asking the Diocese for clarity on the ratio of adults to children needed.

A.O.B.

Bethan Ecclesiastical Insurance would like to include us in a trial of a new product, Roof Guardian, a Wireless Sensor System to prevent metal thefts. There would be no cost to us and when the trial is over, after 3 – 6 months, they will remove it. Are the PCC members happy with this? What is required from the church is someone to receive the e-mail alerts when the system is triggered and go and check things out. This could be set to night-time only.

The PCC agreed unanimously.

Hilary The Summer Fayre was being planned for July 2nd and other local events have been researched to check for clashing events on the same day. Now a Festival in Vivary Park on 2nd & 3rd July, sponsored by Deborah Meaden and with free sites for stalls. So the Fayre has been cancelled. The only other date the Scouts can help is the 9th July, on that date we couldn't have the music we had at the Christmas Fayre as the key person would be missing.

So it has been decided there will be no Summer Fayre and all the effort will be put into the Christmas Fayre. Nick expressed the church's thanks to Hilary and the rest of the team for all their hard work.

The meeting was closed with the Grace.

Signed :(Chairman)

Date :